



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي.

AMMAN MONDAY, JULY 22, 1991, MUHARRAM 10, 1412

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Schwarzkopf back in Gulf

BAHRAIN (AP) — General H. Norman Schwarzkopf was back Sunday in the Gulf, the theatre for the 42-day Gulf war and the 700,000 allied forces he commanded. Mr. Schwarzkopf arrived in Saudi Arabia after a two-day stopover in Egypt for a meeting with President Hosni Mubarak, one of the leading Arab members of the 33-nation alliance. U.S. military spokesmen at the joint information bureau in the kingdom would only confirm that he had arrived in Saudi Arabia, but would not provide details of his schedule, or say where he had landed. "All we can say is he's here to visit troops," said Captain Dave Mallard at the information bureau in Dhahran. Most of the troops commanded by Gen. Schwarzkopf during the war have already left, and been replaced by new forces since the general returned to the United States in April. Gen. Schwarzkopf had directed Operation Desert Storm from makeshift headquarters in the Saudi capital, Riyadh. When he left Egypt, he was reportedly headed for Jordan. While in Cairo, Gen. Schwarzkopf told reporters he was ready to command another military strike against Iraq if ordered.

Hassan denies role in Diouri expulsion

PARIS (R) — King Hassan II of Morocco said Sunday he played no role in France's expulsion to Gabon last month of a Moroccan dissident. "That individual had lived in France for 20 years," King Hassan told France's TFI television channel, referring to Abdelmoumen Diouri, who returned to Paris last week after a French court ruled his expulsion was illegal. "If I had wanted to ask for his expulsion, I would have done it before the (French) Socialist came to power. But I never did it and I don't think I ever would have," the king added. Some human rights activists in Paris said Mr. Diouri was expelled at the urging of King Hassan to hamper the publication of a book written by the dissident about the personal fortune of the Moroccan monarch. France said it expelled Mr. Diouri because of alleged contacts with Libyan and Iraqi agents, which Mr. Diouri has denied. King Hassan, who Paris counts on as an ally in the Arab World, provoked a serious crisis with France last year when a similar book was published by a French author. "As far as I am concerned, the (Diouri) affair is a Franco-French 'mechoui,' to which some Moroccan garlic was added," said the king. Mechoui is a spicy North African dish.

Jordan to reopen embassy in Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — Jordan's new charge d'affaires arrived in Beirut Sunday to reopen the Kingdom's embassy, closed during the civil war. Atef Halasa told reporters that he would make arrangements to reopen the embassy next week. It was closed in 1982 after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Mr. Halasa said Jordan backed the Lebanese government's drive to extend its authority throughout the country, including a border strip held by Israel and its militia ally in South Lebanon. "We hope the Lebanese government would be able to expand its control to every kilometre of land," Mr. Halasa said.

Syria discusses Lebanon with U.N.

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaf met U.N. Assistant Secretary-General Marrack Goulding Sunday to discuss the security situation in Lebanon. An official source said their talks focused on U.N. Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanese territory. Mr. Goulding arrived in Damascus Saturday and met Syrian Vice-President Abdel Halim Khaddam.

Israel, Albania to establish full ties

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel and Albania will establish full diplomatic relations in the next few weeks, an Israeli foreign ministry spokesman said Sunday. Israel's ambassador to Rome, Mordechai Brury, and Albanian leaders agreed on the move at a meeting in Tirana. Albanian Foreign Minister Muhamed Kapllani will visit Israel within two weeks, the spokesman said. "In the last few months most of the Albanian Jews left Albania and immigrated to Israel," the spokesman said. "Relations have been good in the last few months. There is even an Israeli-Albanian friendship league in Tirana."

Businessmen reported missing

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — Two businessmen, an American and a British citizen, were reported missing in Kuwait, and diplomats said Sunday they may have strayed into Iraq. "We are following up reports that an American is missing and reports he may be in Iraq," said an American diplomat, who insisted on anonymity. An official at the British embassy said the Foreign Office to London had been in contact with Iraqi diplomats "to seek help in getting the release" of a missing British national. They refused to give the names of the missing men or give any clues on when and where they may have strayed across the border.

Mujahadeen scorn U.N. election plan

PESHAWAR (R) — Mujahadeen guerrilla officials said Sunday they would press for a military victory in the Afghan war as elections would not provide a solution. Military representatives of the seven main guerrilla groups virtually dismissed a United Nations peace plan for a ceasefire and free elections to end 13 years of war against the Soviet-backed government in Kabul. "The Jihad is going on all over Afghanistan, stronger than ever before," Mohammad Musa of the Islamic Unity Party told a news conference.

U.N. official calls for aid for Africans

ADDIS ABABA (R) — U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Sadok Ogata appealed to the international community Sunday to meet a \$70 million shortfall in funds needed to help 22 million Africans suffering from drought and war. Mr. Ogata, in Ethiopia, said the situation was "more dire than ever before." He said the Horn of Africa was still short of \$70 million. The money was needed to help overcome the worsening drought and refugee situation in Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti and Kenya.

Jordan ready to attend peace conference, lift boycott if conditions right

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein said Sunday that Jordan was prepared to attend a Middle East peace conference and accepted Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's suggestion to lift the Arab boycott on companies dealing with Israel if Israel stopped building settlements in the occupied territories. King Hussein told journalists at the Royal Palace following a three-hour meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that the Kingdom, which has the longest border with Israel, was ready to attend a conference that would address and settle the Arab-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli dimensions of the Middle East conflict. "We are ready to attend the peace conference and we are very happy indeed that it is going to be a comprehensive one," the King told reporters. "When the process is there, when the conference is there, Jordan will be among the first to attend it," he added. Mr. Baker arrived in Amman from Jeddah on his third visit to Jordan and flew to Israel to hold talks with Palestinian leaders and Israeli officials.

Baker meets Palestinians and Shamir, but no quick answers

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker met with a Palestinian delegation Sunday, then sat down with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to try and win his support for a Middle East peace conference. Mr. Hussein's group reportedly has accepted limited autonomy for the Palestinians as an interim solution, combined with American assurances that Israel will later negotiate the final status of the occupied territories. The moderates also said they are willing to negotiate with Israel as part of a joint delegation with Jordan, a position the fundamentalists and hardline PLO factions reject. Mr. Baker then drove to Mr. Shamir's office to seek Israel's acceptance of a regional peace conference that would lead to direct talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours. The U.S. formula says the conference could be reconvened in case of a deadlock if all sides agree. A U.N. observer would attend. Israel objects to any U.N. role and the reconvening of the conference, but pressure mounted for Israeli concessions after Arab countries modified their positions. The outlook for a quick response from the Israeli government to the conference idea faded when Mr. Baker, who was reported by Israeli sources to be feeling unwell, scheduled a shortened afternoon session with Mr. Shamir. He postponed a fuller session with Mr. Shamir, Foreign Minister David Levy and Defence Minister Moshe Arens until Monday morning. Mr. Baker said in Amman he hoped the United States would be able to issue invitations to the conference soon. But, in a broad hint to Israel, he suggested that Washington might not wait for everybody's agreement. "It is my hope that we could convene this conference within a reasonable time period."

Offered end to boycott will not mean Arab trade with Israel

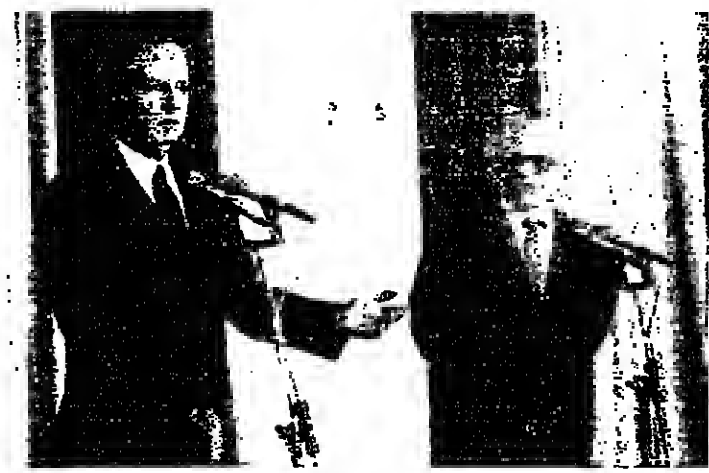
By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's announcement that it is willing to lift the Arab economic boycott of Israel if the conditions were right does not necessarily mean normalisation of trade between Israel and the Arab states but lifting restrictions placed on third party countries and companies. According to economists and politicians contacted by the Jordan Times, the offer by Egypt, later accepted by Saudi Arabia and Jordan, covers companies and countries who were banned from trade with Arab countries because of their deals with Israel or investments in that country. His Majesty King Hussein said Sunday that Jordan would accept the proposal "if the dynamics of the situation could be worked out." The King was speaking at a joint press conference with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at the end of the American official's short visit to the Kingdom. Dr. Jawad Anani, an economist and former minister of trade, said that the proposal, if adopted, would be "more of a gesture to the American and European companies who deal with Israel than one towards Israel itself." Dr. Abdullah Malki, an economist, analyst and head of the Association of Banks in Jordan, also confirmed that the boycott list, compiled by the Damascus-based

doing business with Israel as a "contribution to encourage the ongoing efforts aimed at achieving peace in the Middle East." The United Arab Emirates (UAE) made a similar statement Sunday. Israel was quick to reject the Saudi offer, claiming that the Arab boycott was illegal and was not linked in any way to the building of settlements in the occupied territories. Israel had also rejected the proposal when it was first made by the Group of Seven in London last week. A senior aide to the King visited Cairo and met President Hosni Mubarak Saturday. Royal Court Chief Sherif Zeid Ben Shaker said the purpose of the meeting with Mr. Mubarak was to coordinate positions particularly on the possibility of convening a peace conference on the Middle East. He did not exclude the possibility of a meeting between King Hussein and President Mubarak in the near future. He said however that the issue did not come up during his meeting with the Egyptian president. Mr. Baker refused to answer what would happen should Israel reject the American proposals (Continued on page 5)

agree. A U.N. observer would attend. Israel objects to any U.N. role and the reconvening of the conference, but pressure mounted for Israeli concessions after Arab countries modified their positions. The outlook for a quick response from the Israeli government to the conference idea faded when Mr. Baker, who was reported by Israeli sources to be feeling unwell, scheduled a shortened afternoon session with Mr. Shamir. He postponed a fuller session with Mr. Shamir, Foreign Minister David Levy and Defence Minister Moshe Arens until Monday morning. Mr. Baker said in Amman he hoped the United States would be able to issue invitations to the conference soon. But, in a broad hint to Israel, he suggested that Washington might not wait for everybody's agreement. "It is my hope that we could convene this conference within a reasonable time period."

screening organisation for companies which deal with Israel rather than the occupying country itself. "All these countries (Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Jordan) are bound by Arab charters which directly link the boycott of trade with Israel to its occupation of Arab lands. To break the stipulations of these charters would be in direct contravention of the Arab League Charter," Dr. Malki pointed out. But he did not rule out that this first step by Arab countries would gradually lead to normalisation of trade relations with Israel as the peace process developed. "In any measure, direct trade with Israel would take time and many arrangements dealing with financing and marketing," Dr. Malki said adding that while Egypt had normalised political relations with Israel "it has not been able to normalise trade yet." Dr. Anani, who described "Arab boycott" as an "elusive term" said he believed that the issue was "added on the political agenda for negotiations during the proposed peace conference." "No one can pass judgement at this time. To me it means that this issue was added to the agenda of the peace meeting so that it can be relaxed pending the outcome of negotiations," Dr. Anani said. The countries involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, in my opinion, have already started their negotiations," Dr. Anani asserted.



His Majesty King Hussein and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker Sunday address a press conference at the royal palace (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

PLO accepts Bush proposals

NICOSIA (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials Sunday dropped its insistence on attending a Middle East peace conference, saying the PLO accepts U.S. proposals that delegates from inside and outside Israeli-occupied territories could represent Palestinian interests. "We accept President George Bush's proposals and the PLO is ready to form its delegation to the peace conference from Palestinians from the occupied territories and outside the occupied territories, a delegation that represents the Palestinians," said Bassem Abu Sharif, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. "By doing so we are in fact accepting Mr. Baker's proposal," Mr. Abu Sharif said, referring to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who is making his fifth Middle East tour this year to start a Middle East peace conference. "We are willing to go to a regional conference that is held on the basis which President Bush has defined," Mr. Abu Sharif said in a telephone interview from PLO headquarters in Tunis. Although he refused to elaborate, Mr. Abu Sharif seemed to be indicating that as long as the PLO has a say in who represents Palestinians, the delegation does not necessarily have to include PLO members. But other PLO officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, have been more explicit during the past few days, saying that to facilitate the peace process and bypass Israeli objections, the organisation is willing to settle for having a say in the choice of delegates and contributing through them to the negotiations. The Palestinian delegation Mr. Baker was meeting in Jerusalem was under instructions to convey that the PLO would have "the right...to name Palestinians who will participate in a joint delegation to peace negotiations with Israel," said another PLO official in Tunis, speaking by telephone to the Associated Press in Amman.

"The PLO also wants to reserve the right that Palestinian participants should refer to the PLO on all positions during the negotiations," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "The intentional marginalisation of the PLO has left the organisation with very limited options, but there are general guidelines that it will adhere to," said the official. Mr. Abu Sharif would not comment Sunday when asked the PLO's reaction to Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt saying they would be willing to lift the Arab boycott of businesses trading with Israel if the Jewish state halted further Jewish settlements in the occupied territories. The PLO official who spoke anonymously said the PLO would demand Arab and American guarantees for an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The official acknowledged it would be difficult to insist on its demands. He said the PLO is being ignored by Arabs and this means "more pressure on the organisation to provide free concessions without any commitments from the Americans to preserve Palestinian rights."

Bush calls again for freeze on Israeli settlements

ISTANBUL (R) — U.S. President George Bush appealed again to Israel Sunday to stop building settlements in the occupied territories and said the United States was seeking a positive response. He welcomed Saudi Arabia's offer to lift the Arab economic boycott of Israel in exchange for a freeze on settlement building, an offer Israel has rejected. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived in Israel Sunday evening on the last and toughest leg of his latest peace mission, the fifth since the Gulf war. "I'm confident, and I hope it's not misplaced confidence, that when the secretary gets to Israel, he will find that they, like all these other countries, realise that

the time for peace is at hand," Mr. Bush said. Mr. Baker has won the backing of Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Jordan for his proposals for a Middle East peace conference. Israel has rejected them. Asked if a freeze of settlements would help Mr. Baker's peace mission, Mr. Bush replied: "Well, we're asking that there be positive responses from all parties." He said the United States had long opposed settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and added: "We haven't changed one bit." "I had a one-on-one discussion with (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir months ago and

made clear to him that the United States policy was that there be no more settlements," Mr. Bush added emphatically. Mr. Bush welcomed Saudi Arabia's conditional offer to end the boycott, an offer also made by Jordan. "It's not the whole solution but it's important," he said. "We're beginning to see the kind of cooperation necessary for peace." "I haven't encountered anybody in this part of the world who thinks continuing settlements is a helpful thing." Mr. Bush, on the second day of a visit to Turkey, spoke to reporters during a picture-taking session.

House condemns American initiatives, 'double standard'

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As U.S. Secretary of State James Baker left Jordan for talks with Israeli leaders Sunday afternoon Jordan's 80-member Parliament condemned American policies in the region as well as Egypt's call to end the Arab economic boycott of Israel. "We refuse a peace conference that will enhance Israel's occupation of Palestine and bring an end to its enmity with the surrounding Arab states," read a statement released by Parliament Sunday night. "We also refuse to condone double standards in the application of U.N. Security Council resolutions, any peace conference based on double standards and any negotiations which do not include the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," said the statement. While an international peace conference was acceptable to Parliament, the statement said, it will not support bilateral talks. In a complete condemnation of a proposal made by Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, the House said: "We refuse to support the call for an end of the Arab boycott of Israel in exchange for

an end to settlement building by Israel in the occupied territories." Calling any Arab agreement to negotiate with Israel under the terms of the Baker proposal "surrender of the Arab nation," members of the House lashed out at what they viewed as insincere intentions of the United States government. "Those who led a murderous war against an Arab country less than six months now want pretend to stand for peace?" asked pan-Arab Deputy Hussein Mujalid. The Jersab deputy, who had voted against the government of Taher Al Masri, said that an end of the Arab economic boycott of Israel would be the last step in the "total Arab submission" to America and Zionism. While Islamist deputies categorically rejected the U.S. peace initiative, many left-wing and pan-Arab deputies charged that the proposals had serious loopholes that would put into question the entire approach. "Any peace proposal that does not implement all U.N. Security Council resolutions cannot be accepted," said Bassem Haddadin of the nine-member Democratic Bloc, which has a member in the current government. "The participation of the

PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people is a must. Without the participation of the PLO there can be no real peace," Mr. Haddadin said. The participation of the PLO in the peace process was called for mostly by leftist and pan-Arab deputies who agree to a negotiated peace with Israel provided all Security Council resolutions are applied and Israel withdraws from all occupied Arab territories. In sharp comparison Islamists did not mention the PLO in any of their speeches. They condemn the organisation for accepting the existence of Israel. Unlike the PLO, Islamists say that two states cannot co-exist in Palestine and that one day, by peaceful means or war, Palestine will and must be ruled by the Palestinian Arabs and with Islam as its state religion. In a printed statement the Islamic movement in Parliament began Sunday's session with a categorical condemnation of the Baker visit and its aims. In an eight-point statement the 23-member Muslim Brotherhood Bloc said "no" to the Baker proposal, "no" to an end of the Arab boycott of Israel and condemned "continuing U.S. aggression and the siege of Iraq."

Iraq paper: Iran trying to spoil autonomy talks

NICOSIA (Agencies) — The Iraqi daily published by the Defence Ministry accused Iran Sunday of trying to undermine the autonomy talks between the Kurdish minority and the government. "Iran's leaders, acting in concert with the United States, 'are playing a malicious game,' the daily Al Qadisiya said. "The Iranian people will be held responsible for this game...and for the difficulties facing the normalisation of relations between Iraqis and Iraqis," said the editorial carried by the Iraqi News Agency (INA). Iraq has repeatedly accused Iran, its foe in a bloody war from 1980-88, of interfering in its internal affairs. It says Iran sponsored the anti-government violence that erupted in March among both the Shiite Muslims in the south and Kurds in the north. Iran denies any role, saying Iraq is trying to blame exterior forces for interior problems. Peace talks with Kurdish leaders have failed to reach an auton-

Israeli stabbed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Two Palestinians stabbed an Israeli factory owner in a Tel Aviv suburb Sunday, shortly before U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's arrival for peace talks, police said. The 60-year-old victim was brought with multiple stab wounds to a hospital where he was pronounced in fair condition, Israel Radio said. Police closed off the area to search for the assailants. Ninety minutes later the two Arabs were found hiding in a nearby junkyard and were arrested, police said. One of them had worked for the Israeli, and had come to the factory with a friend, police said. Edward Elan, a factory owner in the industrial area of Petah Tikva, told army radio that shouts for help were heard. "We went outside and saw our neighbour lying on a car bleeding. He told us that two Arabs, his employees from the West Bank town of Tulkarm, stabbed him and escaped," he said.

Eritreans seek formal Arab support for independence

ELF-UE calls for 'national conference' to work out united Eritrean strategy

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Buoyed by the ouster of Ethiopian dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam after decades of struggle, Eritrean activists have launched a drive to secure Arab support for their campaign to carve out an independent state in the ancient land of Eritrea.

Simultaneously, they are also calling for Arab and African help to arrange a "national reconciliation conference" among Eritreans to forge a united stand in negotiations with the regime in power in Addis Ababa.

A delegation representing the Eritrean Liberation Front — United Organisation (ELF-UE) met with senior Foreign Ministry officials in Amman this week and secured the Kingdom's support in principle for an independent Eritrean state, senior ELF-UE officials said Sunday.

"We have been promised that Jordan will convey its position to the Arab League secretary-general, (Esmat) Abdul Meguid (Egypt), when he visits Amman this week," said Omar Jaber, head of the ELF-UE's information department.

Mr. Jaber said the delegation was on a visit to various Arab countries to enlist support on the Arab level for independence for Eritrea's Arabic-speaking five million people — about 60 per cent of them Muslim and the rest Christian.

Egypt and Syria, in addition to Sudan — which has been maintaining very close ties with various Eritrean groups — have already expressed their support for the aspirations of the Eritreans, Mr. Jaber said. The delegation now plans to visit Yemen, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states, where the ELF-UE already maintains official presence.

But "there has not been any official statement — whether on the level of the Arab League, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) or the United Nations — in support of our cause although individual Arab countries have extended backing," he said.

A press statement by the ELF-UE said "several" unidentified European, African and Arab states have expressed their support although the formal position of the administration has not been made clear, Mr. Jaber said.

According to Mr. Jaber and Hassan Osman, head of the Economic Affairs Department of the ELF-UE, a formal Arab League statement endorsing Eritrean independence will go a long way in presenting a strong Eritrean case on the international level.

Mr. Jaber and Mr. Osman conceded that they had not yet reached firm agreements with other Eritrean organisations fighting for independence.

The ELF-UE press statement warned of an "Eritrean-Eritrean"

conflict if such agreements were not reached. "Such a conflict," it said, "will undermine the efforts of all Eritreans."

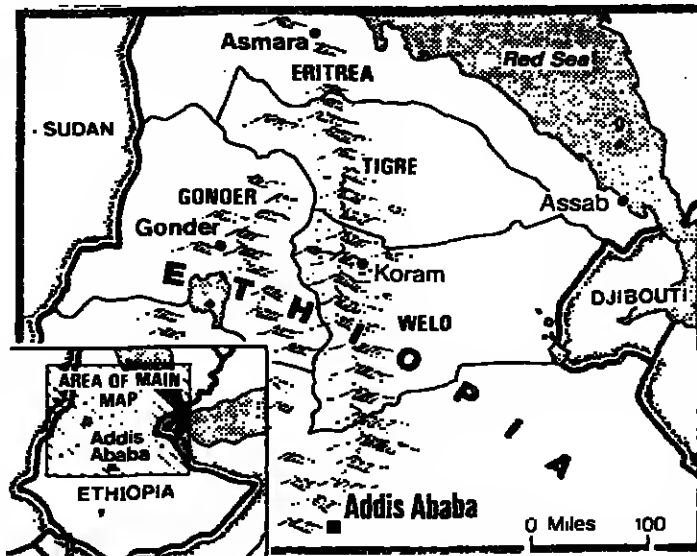
The ELF-UE is calling for a "reconciliation" conference among the organisation to elect an "interim government-in-exile" and a parliamentary council for Eritrea so that the Eritreans can bury their differences and present a unified position in all pre-independence negotiations with Addis Ababa.

It gives special attention to Sudan in the process to bring together all Eritrean factions under one umbrella.

At the same time, Mr. Jaber said, world support for their cause is important for the Eritreans ahead of any adverse decision by the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), which dominates the interim government to Addis Ababa after Colonel Mengistu was toppled in May under a concerted military campaign supported by the various Ethiopian liberation groups and Eritrean organisations.

By the time Col. Mengistu fled Addis Ababa, the Eritrean groups had wrenched control of almost all territory where they want to set up an independent state.

"Now we are in complete control of all Eritrean territory after all Ethiopian soldiers fled Eritrea when Mengistu was toppled," another ELF-UE official said.



"We do not occupy any land which is not Eritrean."

Mr. Jaber noted that the EPRDF was not against the idea of Eritrean independence in principle, but the situation could change if the Eritreans were to wait out the two years as decided by a recent conference of various Ethiopian factions.

"We are seeking international and regional guarantees for the legitimate rights of the Eritrean people to self-determination and an independent state," he said.

"We have an ongoing dialogue with the EPRDF through the Sudanese government," Mr. Jaber said. "We are willing to enter direct negotiations as well as mutually agreeable arrangements with the interim government, but we cannot wait for another two years before (regime in Addis Ababa) decided whether to agree to a separate Eritrean state," he said.

By the same token, he said the economy and resources of Eritrea and its people were sufficient to maintain an independent state. In any event, he added, "economic resources are never a determining

factor that should influence any decision to grant a people the right to self-determination and freedom."

The strategic Red Sea port of Assab, which lies in Eritrean territory, is accessible to the regime in Addis Ababa under an agreement reached between various Eritrean groups and the EPRDF, Mr. Jaber said.

According to Mr. Osman, the ELF-UE is seeking to reach accord with five other Eritrean groups on a political, economic and social charter. "We hope agreement will be reached in the next two weeks," he said.

Reports from the Horn of Africa territory indicate that individual Eritrean groups remain in control of separate areas but their common desire for independence is binding them together.

Both ELF-UE officials indicated that major differences remained with the Eritrean Popular Liberation Front (EPLF), one of the strongest groups in the territory, but expressed optimism that the rift could be healed through the proposed national Eritrean conference.

Kuwait says Iraq holding 3,890 people

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Kuwait says that Iraq is violating the Gulf war ceasefire by continuing to hold 1,890 Kuwaiti prisoners of war (PoWs) and nearly 2,000 foreign civilians captured in Kuwait during the Iraqi occupation.

In a letter to the Security Council, Kuwaiti Ambassador Mohammad Abulhasan complained that some of the detainees were being moved to new, undisclosed locations.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) had not interviewed those prisoners, and was not informed of their new detention sites, Mr. Abulhasan said.

Mr. Abulhasan said the continuing detention of the PoWs and civilians violates the ceasefire resolution adopted by the Security Council on April 3, which demanded, among other things, that Iraq "immediately" release all PoWs and detainees.

A Kuwaiti newspaper reported Saturday that Kuwaiti members of an interim government set up by Iraq after it invaded Kuwait last August were the last to know about their new posts.

The independent Arabic daily Al Qabas gave the first account of the interim government's early hours in the Iraqi capital Baghdad, where the ministers learned of their appointments only as they were made public. It did not give the source of its report.

Nine Kuwaiti army officers were picked by Iraq for the government, which never functioned.

Eight of the officers returned to Kuwait after their liberation by allied forces on Feb. 26 and were immediately jailed. The ninth, Ala Hussein Ali, who had been named prime minister in the government, remained behind in Iraq.

Kuwait's minister of the interior, Sheikh Ahmad Hamud Al Sabah, has said the men would be tried for collaboration. No trial date has been set.

The Al Qabas report said the first time the nine Kuwaitis knew Iraq wanted something from them was when they were ordered to change from their military uniforms into the Kuwaiti national dress.

The officers then were taken to a well-appointed room to meet Iraqi leaders, including President Saddam Hussein.

The officers were asked one by one to come forward and introduce themselves. They did, but each gave his rank first, the paper said, adding "that is why it was shown on television without a sound track."

According to the paper, the officers were asked to answer questions according to a written text provided by the Iraqis. When one of them mentioned the emir government, the cameras were stopped.

"That is when the officers knew they were the members of the interim government," the paper said.

The airing of the film on Iraqi television last August created a stir among Kuwaitis, many of whom had fled their homeland after Iraq's invasion. Kuwait's emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, headed a government in exile in Saudi Arabia during the occupation and returned after liberation.

Al Qabas said that after Kuwait's liberation, the officers in the interim government were told "the play was over."

According to the paper's account, Iraqi leaders were shocked when they all chose to go back to Kuwait.

ICRC visits Iraqi troops taken prisoner by Kurds

GENEVA (Agencies) — The international Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has visited several hundred Iraqi soldiers taken prisoner by Kurdish rebels in recent fighting in northern Iraq, an ICRC spokeswoman said.

The ICRC said its workers also helped evacuate dozens of people wounded in fighting Wednesday and Thursday around the town of Sulaimaniyah, some across the border to the Iranian town Paveh.

The all-Swiss humanitarian agency said it is bringing medical supplies to the area from Tehran, Iran, and preparing more for shipment from Baghdad if needed.

The spokeswoman, Karen Sadler, could not say exactly how many captives taken by the Kurds have been visited or how many there might be in total.

A first group of 29 casualties were evacuated Thursday night from Sayid Sadek to a hospital in Paveh. Sixteen more wounded were transported Friday from Sayid Sadek to Sulaimaniyah.

ICRC delegates in Sulaimaniyah are assessing what other help might be needed, Geneva headquarters said in a statement.

Western U.N. diplomats said U.N. officials reported Friday from the area that the Kurdish rebels had captured up to 1,000 Iraqi soldiers, and as many as 700 were wounded.

Relief workers and travellers said Sulaimaniyah rocked by fighting between troops and Kurdish Peshmerga fighters, was now calm with the two sides organising joint patrols and road blocks.

But the Peshmergas, who control the centre of Sulaimaniyah and the nearby market town of Arbat, were holding at least 1,200 Iraqi soldiers prisoner, they added.

"There were two trucks full of the bodies of soldiers. The smell was appalling," one traveller from the city told reporters in Baghdad. He said he had seen blazing tanks in the city and

2 American relief workers kidnapped in Afghanistan

PESHAWAR (AP) — Two Americans working for a private relief organisation in Afghanistan have been abducted in territory controlled by the guerrillas, officials said.

The two men were abducted earlier this week in southern Ghazni province while working on an animal husbandry project for Global Partners, a British-based private relief agency, officials said.

U.S. officials in Pakistan refused to disclose any information about the kidnapping, including the identities of the hostages.

The U.S. embassy, however, banned all U.S.-supported relief agencies from sending supplies or any non-native workers into Afghanistan. Before this week, only Americans were barred from crossing the border.

"It's not as safe as people think," said one diplomat speaking on condition of anonymity. Much of Ghazni province is controlled by the U.S.-backed guerrillas fighting for more than 13 years to overthrow the Soviet-supported government in Kabul.

Officials stopped short of blaming the Mujahedeen, saying the pair could have been taken hostage by bandits operating at will in much of the countryside.

Guerrilla sources, however, said the two Americans were being held by the fundamentalist group Jamiat-e-Islami.

Earlier this week, a French national was released unharmed after being held captive for two weeks by radical guerrilla fighters in southern Zabul province.

Hostility among the resistance groups toward foreigners has increased since the last Soviet soldiers left Afghanistan in February

1989 and humanitarian assistance has dropped sharply. Several Western aid organisations and their staffs have been attacked.

Washington is expected to cut off all military assistance to the Mujahedeen next year.

A spokesman for the Pakistani-based guerrilla alliance said earlier Saturday the Americans — a veterinarian and a translator — were abducted July 7 by Nahazai Islami, or the Islamic movement.

The small, relatively obscure group was once loyal to the U.S.-supported groups in Pakistan but switched loyalties and has been receiving some money and weapons from Tehran.

A spokesman for the Islamic Movement in Peshawar, Mohammad Yunus Amiri, denied the group was holding the Americans captive.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Martin J. Judge said without elaboration that the two Americans were being "held by a resistance commander in the area."

The Iranian guerrilla groups represent the minority Shiite Muslims in Afghanistan, while the Pakistani guerrillas belong to the majority Sunni sect.

The seven Pakistan groups have been at odds for years with the Iran-based parties, charging they have done little fighting during the 13-year-old war against the communist-style government in Kabul but now demand to share power in any future Afghan government.

At first, diplomats and relief officials thought the Americans aid workers had been kidnapped by one of the fundamentalist anti-Western groups in Pakistan.

Somalis agree on ceasefire, government

DJIBOUTI (R) — Six political groups from Somalia announced agreement in Djibouti Sunday on a ceasefire in their war-torn country.

They also named Ali Mahdi Mohammad, leader of the United Somali Congress (USC) which controls the capital Mogadishu, as head of an interim government for the whole country.

The six groups announced their decisions at the end of a week-long conference in Djibouti.

However, the meeting was not attended by representatives of the Somali National Movement (SNM), which has declared a separate "republic of Somaliland" in northern areas under its control.

The conference, held behind closed doors, saw delicate negotiations between the rival groups, and the final agreement was reached only after intensive manoeuvring, diplomats said.

The official communiqué revealed that delegates agreed to unite in forming a joint military force to flush out former President Mohammad Siad Barre and his supporters who are entrenched in southern Somalia. Mr. Siad Barre, who took power in a coup in 1969, fled from Mogadishu in January when the USC took the city.

Djibouti Foreign Minister Moumin Bahdon Farah announced details of the communiqué at the closing ceremony Sunday.

He said the conference had agreed on the composition of a new interim government for Somalia. There would be two vice-presidents — one representing the Somali Democratic Movement (SDM) and the other chosen by the Somali Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF) and the Somali Patriotic Movement (SPM).

Ghali confident of Arab, African support at U.N.

ABU DHABI (AP) — Boutros Ghali, the Egyptian nominee for the post of U.N. secretary-general, was quoted Sunday as voicing confidence in support from Arab and African nations.

Dr. Ghali, Egypt's deputy prime minister for foreign relations, would be the first Arab or African elected to the world body's top post since its founding.

The five year term of Javier Perez de Cuellar, the Peruvian diplomat now heading the U.N., ends on Dec. 31.

Dr. Ghali told the United Arab Emirates daily Al Khaleej that Third World states must try to take part in formulating the emerging new world order.

Dr. Ghali said the U.N. should expand its role in realising world peace and security given the new consensus over its involvement.

He said the role of the United Nations in solving the Palestinian problem was based on its Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. "It is obvious that all parties to the Palestinian problem wish for

a solution, and we have to encourage any step which may lead to moving forward the peace process in the region," he said.

Dr. Ghali said he feared the developments in the international arena may lead to a barrier between developed and undeveloped states.

The world is witnessing giant economic groupings in North America among the United States, Canada and Mexico, in Europe and among the Asian states, he said.

All these groupings necessitate for the South African and Arab states to speed up integration, "otherwise the iron curtain will go down between South and North," he said.

Asked about the fear that African votes may be split among too many nominees from Africa to the same post, Dr. Ghali said African leaders met in Nigeria in June and set up an elections campaign committee comprising leaders of Egypt, Zambia, Tanzania, Zaire and Mozambique.

draw from land it occupied in the 1974 invasion.

Rauf Denktaş, the president of the breakaway state established in occupied northern Cyprus, speaking on the other side of the line splitting the island, said Saturday that a settlement "can only be based on the existence of two separate states."

The Security Council resolutions call for the withdrawal of the Turkish troops and the ending of the Turkish Cypriot secession, which is branded "legally invalid."

Mr. Vassiliou and Greek Cypriots in general were particularly satisfied with Mr. Bush's statement in Athens Thursday that "none of us should accept the status quo in Cyprus."

There was disappointment, however, with Mr. Bush's remark that he did not have a magic wand

Iraq: Iran trying to foil talks

(Continued from page 1)

fired on demonstrators, according to a Kurdish leader in Iraq.

The ICRC spokeswoman said Red Cross staff had registered 1,200 captured Iraqi soldiers following the clashes in Sulaimaniyah.

The ICRC spokeswoman said casualties inflicted during the upheavals had aggravated the critical medical situation in northern Iraq.

Medicines and surgical equipment are already in short supply because of the international sanctions against Iraq. The neutral ICRC has repeatedly appealed to the United Nations to relax the embargo to allow Baghdad to make essential purchases.

"Either Iraq must be allowed to pay its way for basic supplies of food, medicines and spare parts, or the international community must give a firm commitment to meet the needs of 17 million Iraqi people," Ms. Sadler said.

A senior U.N. envoy is scheduled to present a report to the U.S. Security Council Monday,

recommending the easing of sanctions imposed after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last August.

Prince Saaduddin Aga Khan, who is in charge of U.N. humanitarian efforts in the Gulf, drew up the proposals after a visit by a team of experts to Iraq earlier this month.

His report recommends that Baghdad should be allowed to sell some of its oil or gain access to frozen assets to pay for essential humanitarian supplies.

Iraqi amnesty

Iraq's ruling Revolution Command Council (RCC) issued two decrees Sunday forgiving most army deserters and political fugitives, INA said.

It was not immediately clear if the decree covered deserters from the Gulf war, or just those involved in the anti-government rebellions that erupted in March.

The INA report initially said it affected all deserters, but then added that the starting date was March 20.

But he added that "the key for progress towards a solution of the Cyprus problem is to be found in Ankara."

"We therefore hope that during his talks today in Ankara with President (Turgut) Ozal, President Bush will be able to convince the Turkish leadership to abandon its negative stand," he said.

U.N.-sponsored talks between Mr. Vassiliou and Mr. Denktaş for the establishment of a two-zone federation have been deadlocked since January 1989.

The main stumbling block is Mr. Denktaş's demand for the prior recognition of his breakaway state, and his rejection of the right of 200,000 Greek Cypriot refugees to return to their homes in the north, as demanded by the Security Council resolutions.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Les Grandes Batailles du passé
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sports Magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 Empty Nest
21:10 Murder she wrote
22:00 News in English
22:20 Separate but equal

PRAYER TIMES

04:07 Sunrise (Fajr)
05:30 Sunrise (Sunat) Dhuhr
12:42 Dhuhr
16:23 Asr
19:46 Maghrib
21:17 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweidish Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637265
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De In Sale Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel: 622266

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625433

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772651

Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 655326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623624, 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675991

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Another rise in temperature will take place and winds will be north-westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./max. temp. 18 / 32

Aqaba 26 / 39

Deir 20 / 38

Jordan Valley 22 / 38

AMMAN: Dr. Solahi Tannous 889902

Dr. Mohammad Al Ajami 894184

Dr. Mohammed Al Ghad 797730

Dr. Bahjat Badr 849362

Firas pharmacy 661912

Ferdows pharmacy 778336

Al Asma pharmacy 637055

Natrouk pharmacy 623672

Al Salem pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shamsi pharmacy 637660

IBRD: Dr. Ali Al Semman (-)

Al Shams pharmacy 275825

ZARQA: Dr. Muna Taha Odeh (-)

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30, Aqaba 38. Humidity readings: Amman 29 per cent, Aqaba 33 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Solahi Tannous 889902
Dr. Mohammad Al Ajami 894184
Dr. Mohammed Al Ghad 797730
Dr. Bahjat Badr 849362
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Natrouk pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
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IBRD: Dr. Ali Al Semman (-)

Al Shams pharmacy 275825

ZARQA: Dr. Muna Taha Odeh (-)

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Dr. Muna Taha Odeh (-)

Dr. Muna Taha Odeh (-)

Dr. Muna Taha Odeh (-)

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 630341

Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199



U.N. EVENT: Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Al Faisal Sunday attends a ceremony held by the United Nations Population Fund in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) at Hays Arts Centre. The ceremony included speeches by UNESCO's Acting Regional Director Ghazi Abu Shakra and the assistant of UNPF's programme director as well as painting exhibitions and a play. Princess Alia distributed awards to children who won painting and story writing competitions.

Jordanian postal system channelling Iraqi mail

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An overland system is channelling mail to and from Iraq through Jordan and the Jordanian postal services are handling Iraqi mail shipments on a weekly basis, rendering a much-needed service for the people of Iraq who remain under an international air embargo.

"The system started functioning in early June and now we are processing incoming and outgoing mail on a weekly basis," said Dr. Abdullah Jazi, head of the Post Offices and Postal Savings Corporation. "The system is working very well."

Jordanian postal trucks collect Iraq-bound mail carried aboard Royal Jordanian (RJ) flights to Amman airport and ferry them overland to Baghdad. On their return leg, the trucks bring in mail bearing Iraqi postal stamps to a central collecting centre in Amman and Jordanian postal employees process the shipments and channel them to outgoing RJ flights. Dr. Jazi told the Jordan Times.

The present arrangement does not include surface mail of heavy air-mail packages originating in Iraq.

According to Iraqis visiting Jordan, the Iraqi side of the system is limited to residents of Baghdad and major towns like Mosul and Kirkuk and cities in western Iraq on a weekly basis. "Most residents of the south are not even aware that postal services have been resumed after the (Gulf) war," said an Iraqi businessman.

According to sources in the

expatriate community in Iraq, the postal system has yet to take full effect because it was only launched eight or nine weeks ago. "In view of the scarce availability of telecommunication lines, most of Iraqi government business is also done through mail," said a diplomat based in Baghdad.

Jordan, which represents the main lifeline for Iraq, also serves as the transit point for diplomatic bags from missions which have reopened in the Iraqi capital. Vehicles carrying Jordanian diplomatic license plates are a constant sight on the main Amman-Baghdad highway.

Dr. Jazi said the Jordanian postal system will continue to handle mail for Iraq until Iraqi Airways resume operations in and out of Baghdad. Iraqi Airways maintained a daily Baghdad-Amman-Baghdad flight until the evening of Jan. 16 despite the air embargo imposed on Iraq by the Security Council.

One of the first targets of the allies in the war, which started in the early hours of Jan. 17, was Baghdad International Airport, which was repeatedly hit in devastating air attacks.

The airport has now been repaired and is capable of handling a limited number of incoming and outgoing flights, aviation sources said.

The Iraqi national carrier has sought U.N. Security Council approval to resume Amman-Baghdad-Amman flights "but the application remains somewhere in the labyrinth of the controversy surrounding Iraq's compliance with Gulf war ceasefire terms," said a diplomatic source.

Restoration of Temple of Hercules to begin

By Maha Adhisi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The American Centre for Oriental Research (ACOR), in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), are working on reconstructing the Temple of Hercules overlooking the Roman Amphitheatre on Jabal Al Qal'ah in a way that will change the skyline in the area.

The preliminary plan for the reconstruction was proposed Saturday in a presentation at ACOR by Chrysanthos Kanellopoulos, an archaeologist and architect who, along with archaeologist Alex Papanikolaou, worked on the reconstruction and preservation of the Acropolis in Athens and who will now supervise the reconstruction of the Temple of Hercules.

The Temple, most of which was destroyed, dates back to the first Century AD. The reconstruction plan is to restore four of the Temple columns as the maximum possible reconstruction using a minimal amount of new material.

USAID is funding the project by providing \$600,000. But even with a budget increase only four columns can be reconstructed as defined by the proposed plan.

Members of concerned organisations had varied opinions regarding the proposed plan and said that this project will provide a much needed tourist attraction in Amman.

Nasri Atallah, the director

general of the Ministry of Tourism, said that the reconstruction of this Temple is very important for Jordan, especially because it will become a major tourist site in the Amman region.

"Before the Gulf war, tourism provided over \$500 million in income," Mr. Atallah said. "Many of the tourists who visited Jordan went to the south of Jordan to Aqaba and Petra."

Now that tourism is starting again, the Ministry of Tourism aims to inform tourists of sites in Amman.

"The restoration of the Temple of Hercules is one such (site) and it is the type of place tourists would be interested in," he said. In previous news reports Mr. Atallah said that the reasoning behind the new plan to attract tourists to Amman is that accommodations are always plentiful while in peak seasons accommodations become scarce in Petra and Aqaba because most tourists flock there.

The director of the Department of Antiquities, Dr. Safwan Tell, said that the reconstruction plan is a step in the right direction.

"This is the type of project that we need in Jordan. This is what goes to preserve the heritage in Jordan," Mr. Tell said.

According to Mr. Kanellopoulos, the assessment of work necessary for the reconstruction project has already been completed.

"Now, the actual restoration should begin," he said. "This is expected to take 30 months."

Jordan's position in Gulf war explained to American visitors

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyat has told a team of visiting American academicians that Jordan's position during the Gulf crisis was misunderstood and misinterpreted in the West and urged the team members to relay to the American people the facts about the situation in the wake of the Gulf war.

The team, whose members are on a tour of the region on a fact-finding mission, was briefed by Dr. Arabiyat about the situation in the Gulf and Jordan's

position towards the Gulf crisis. Jordan has continuously sought to find an Arab peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis within the context of the Arab League so that the region would not experience any wars and bloodshed, Dr. Arabiyat said.

Jordan's position was not understood and the Kingdom had no chance to present its views and plans for a peaceful settlement to the crisis, Dr. Arabiyat said.

The House speaker briefed the visitors on the economic situation in Jordan and the enormous assistance the Kingdom offered

to the Palestinian refugees who have been displaced since 1948 and following the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

He also spoke in detail about the difficulties which the Kingdom continues to face as a result of the embargo on Iraq despite the end of Gulf war. Jordan, Dr. Arabiyat said, was neutral during the Gulf crisis and the Kuwaiti Embassy in Amman was operating as normal during the Gulf war.

He requested that the team relay Jordan's views to the American public.

Seminar to discuss data analysis of fertility and mortality rates

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Labour, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Sunday opened a two-day training seminar on the use of computers in data analysis concerning fertility and mortality rates in Jordan.

The seminar is designed to recruit and train a national team to work with the National Population Committee in helping to analyse data and statistical information related to demographic development in Jordan in a manner that would be of help to the decision makers and in matters related to human resources development, according to Ministry of Labour officials.

They said officials from various ministries and public organisations involved in population matters are taking part in the seminar.

Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Dughmi, who opened the session, underlined the importance of the subject matter as part of the Kingdom's efforts to achieve sound planning in developmental fields. Proper analysis of data would help policy makers to be in a better position to help the country achieve a balance between human and material resources, said the minister.

The National Population Committee, he said, aims at enabling the country to achieve success in planning for development schemes focusing on the human element which constitutes the focal point in development.

UNDP resident representative in Jordan Dr. Ali Attiga addressed the session, noting that the United Nations was financing this seminar in order to help boost the National Population Committee's technical capabilities and to help proper involvement of human resources in socio-economic development.

Dr. Attiga said that the seminar would help Jordan lay the foundation for a data base on prospects in human resources development and population growth between 1990 and the

year 2005. According to National Population Committee Director Mohammad Akel, Jordan's population by the end of the century is expected to reach 4,849,000, up from 3,571,000 at present.

Dr. Akel told the opening session that the seminar was a response to the urgent needs of Jordan, which faces numerous population problems. He said matters like fertility and mortality rates, the increase in the unemployment rate and a rise in the volume of spending on basic services are matters that would be tackled through proper handling of data and information related to population.

According to Dr. Akel, the mortality rate in Jordan declined as a result of an improvement in the standard of health services and a rise in the average income of Jordanian citizens. He said that the increase in population in Jordan now stands at the rate of 4.7 per cent.

Preparations for journalism symposium begin

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Press Association (JPA) has made initial preparations for a three day symposium to open in Amman in September to discuss the role of journalists during wartime.

A JPA statement said that the symposium, which will be held in Amman in cooperation with the International Organisations of Journalists (IOJ), is to review several working papers dealing with the role of journalists, their experiences when covering armed conflicts and wars with special attention to the occupied Arab territories, and the lessons of the Gulf war.

The symposium, to be held under the title "Objectivity and

the Role of Journalists" seeks to focus attention on journalists and the difficulties they encounter during disputes and in working under severe conditions, the JPA said.

It said that the papers focus attention on the problems journalists encounter during missions and obstacles various governments impose on journalists while they carry out their duty.

Representatives of the Prague-based IOJ and journalists from Arab and foreign countries as well as reporters who took part in covering the Gulf war will take part in the symposium, according to the JPA statement.

Agreement was reached on this symposium following talks in

Amman between two IOJ members and JPA President Hashem Khreisat and association board members.

At least 250 journalists were deliberately killed while working in a number of countries over the past two years, according to the IOJ team that concluded its visit to Amman last week.

The team discussed with Mr. Khreisat several matters related to reporters' work and the general conditions of journalists in the occupied Arab territories.

The JPA board had set up a five member committee to make arrangements for the upcoming symposium, the first of its kind to discuss such issues of concern to journalists around the world.

King praised for efforts to achieve Arab unity



KING MEETS OIC CHIEF: His Majesty King Hussein receives at the Royal Court Sunday the secretary general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), Hamid Al Ghabid (Petra photo)

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Dr. Hamed Al Ghabid, who arrived in Amman Sunday on a two-day visit, lauded His Majesty King Hussein's efforts on the Arab and international levels to find solutions to problems plaguing the Arab and Islamic nations.

Dr. Ghabid, at a meeting with Speaker of the Senate Ahmad Al Lawzi, said that the King was exerting efforts towards ending hostile propaganda campaigns among OIC members, thus opening the way for the organisation to find proper solutions for them.

Issues related to the Gulf crisis and other matters of concern to Arab and Islamic countries, including the Palestine question, were discussed at the meeting.

Dr. Ghabid also met with Abdul Latif Arabiyat, speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, for similar discussions. Dr. Arabiyat expressed hope that the OIC secretary general will use his office to bring the Arab and Islamic countries closer together.

Dr. Ghabid told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, upon arrival here that his visit was part of a tour of a number of OIC members to help reestablish solidarity among Islamic nations in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

His talks with Jordanian offi-

cials, he said, would also focus on arrangements for OIC's 20th Ministerial Conference to be held in Istanbul on Aug. 3 and preparations for an OIC summit due to be held in Senegal.

The OIC foreign ministers meeting in Istanbul will discuss basic economic and social issues of concern to OIC member countries like the Gulf situation, the Palestine problem and Muslim minorities in Asian and African countries as well as economic difficulties facing the less developed Islamic countries, he said.

Asked to comment on the

situation in Iraq and the suffering of the Iraqi people as a result of the current economic embargo on that country, Dr. Ghabid said that OIC's Secretariat was committed to the policies and stands of OIC foreign ministers who will meet in Istanbul.

He said OIC members, in their capacity as members of the United Nations, can only be committed to the resolutions taken by the international organisation.

Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensur and other officials were at the airport to welcome Dr. Ghabid and his delegation upon their arrival in Jordan.

Jordanian national environment strategy to be unveiled next month

AMMAN (J.T.) — Work on a Jordanian national environment strategy will be completed and presented in its final version in the coming month, according to an announcement by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Salim Al Zoubi.

The strategy has been prepared in cooperation with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and with financial help from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

The minister spoke about the strategy and Jordan's experiments in environmental issues and means of combating pollution at a meeting in his office with Sirrel Khiteem Khalifa, an advisor at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) who is currently on a tour of Arab states to discuss environmental issues.

Mr. Zoubi briefed the UNEP official on his ministry's cooperation with other government and private institutions in the course of protecting the environment in Jordan.

Jordan's cooperation with UNEP and IUCN in matters related to the protection of the environment and the preparation of the national strategy were discussed at the meeting.

Mr. Zoubi last month said that the IUCN was taking an active role in the preparation of the national strategy for the Kingdom to help it protect the environment and to initiate projects for the achievement of that goal.

He made the announcement during a visit here by an IUCN representative who discussed steps to be taken in the formation and the implementation of the projected strategy.

Protection of the environment, the minister said, was one of the directives contained in His Majesty King Hussein's letter of designation to the new government last month.

In 1989, USAID pledged to provide the ministry with \$383,000 to help finance the project for which the government has allocated JD 69,000.

Mr. Khalifa told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that he was visiting Jordan according to the directives of UNEP in the course of his tour that will also take him to Syria, Yemen and Bahrain.

He will discuss matters related to environmental education, which entails the introduction of subjects in the school curricula aimed at teaching children ways to help protect the environment.

Following the tour, Mr. Khalifa

Summer camp for hearing impaired children opened

KARAK (Petra) — The Ministry of Social Development Sunday opened the first summer camp for the hearing-impaired, offering 100 participating children the chance to meet, make friends and tour archaeological and tourist sites.

The handicapped children gathered at the camp near Karak will be taken on tours of the potash and phosphate mines, Muta University and other places of interest and will be allowed to carry out activities related to community service in the Karak region.

The camp, whose activities will last six days, was organised in cooperation with local special education centres. Participating handicapped children came from

centres in Ruseifa, Karak and Amman, said Ministry of Social Development officials.

According to the Social Development Department director the Karak region, Saleh Esqour, the camp activities will constitute a nucleus for future camps for other handicapped children. The Ministry of Social Development will try to expand its services to all children with hearing difficulties and impairment, he said.

A special school for the hearing impaired in the Karak Governorate is planned and vocational training projects for these with hearing impairments will be launched in cooperation with the National Air Fund and other organisations, Mr. Esqour said.

THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND WATER ADVERTISEMENT FOR ISSUE OF TENDERS FOR TAIZ-ADEN POWER LINK PROJECT

As the Government of the Republic of Yemen has obtained a loan from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development for Financing of Taiz-Aden Power Link Project.

Yemen General Electricity Corporation and Public Corporation of Electric Power in the Republic of Yemen announce the issue of the following tenders for Taiz-Aden Power Link Project:

- 1. Transmission Lines Tender:** For supply, erection and putting into service of 132kV Double Circuit Overhead Transmission Lines from Taiz to Ar-Rahidah, Ar-Rahidah to Al-Turbah, Ar-Rahidah to Hiswa in Aden passing through Nabal Dukim and from Nabal Dukim to Habiayn of total length of about 216km of line route, and 33kV Double Circuit Overhead Line from Habiayn to Dhala of total length of about 35km of line route.
- 2. Substations Tender:** For supply, erection and putting into service of 132/33kV Substation in Ar-Rahidah, 132/33/11kV Substation in Habiayn, 132kV Switching Station in Nabal Dukim, two 33/11kV Substations in Al-Turbah and Dhala and extension of the two existing 132/33kV Substations in Taiz and Hiswa.
- 3. Distribution Networks Tender:** For supply, erection and putting into service of about 240km of Medium Voltage 33 and 11kV Overhead Lines, 235 Substations 33/0.4kV and 11/0.4kV, 400km of Low Voltage 0.4kV Lines and about 14000 Consumer Connections in 253 villages in Ar-Rahidah and Al-Turbah Districts.

Tenderers willing to participate in any of the above mentioned Tenders, can obtain the Tender Documents which consist of four Volumes and Addendum for Transmission Lines Tender, six Volumes and Addendum for Substations Tender and three Volumes for Distribution Tender, from the Main Offices of Jordan Electricity Authority in Amman, P.O. Box 2310, Jordan starting from 22/7/1991 against a non refundable fee of 200 U.S. dollars for each copy of any of the above Tenders.

Local Tenderers in the Republic of Yemen who are willing to participate in any of these Tenders are required to submit with their Tenders the necessary documents proving their compliance with local laws and regulations.

Bids for any of the above Tenders are to be submitted in the offices of Yemen General Electricity Corporation in Sana'a not later than 12:00 noon on Monday 21/10/1991 accompanied with bid bonds as specified in the Tender Documents and any Tender not including these bonds or received after closing time shall not be considered.

PROF. DR. FOUAD SAYEGH

OPHTHALMOLOGIST

Chief ophthalmologist at the Jordan University Hospital

Announces the opening of his private clinic on Jabal Amman-opposite Rouhi Pharmacy-near Khalidi Hospital.

Clinic hours: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Telephone: Clinic 614599 Residence 848877

WHAT'S GOING ON

- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Iraqi artists Batool Al Fuzeiki, Ibrahim Al Abdali and Abdul Jabbar Salman at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Traditional embroidery exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Nidal Jamous and Ahmad Hammad at Yarmouk University.
- ★ Exhibition of photos depicting the Palestinian people's suffering under Israeli occupation at Yarmouk University.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

جورديان تايمز صحيفة سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

No more a hypothesis

IN DESCRIBING his mission and talks in the Middle East, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker yesterday that his efforts were meant to "craft a process for peace in the region." Indeed, as His Majesty King Hussein said, the Middle East problem is "a serious and chronic" one that requires all the efforts and craftsmanship of all men of goodwill — American, Arab and Israeli.

Since his first mission in March, Mr. Baker has called on both Arabs and Israelis to show willingness for peace and to take confidence-building measures that would enhance and bolster the search for peace. It has become a well-known fact by now that the Arab side has shown all the goodwill required to push the peace process ahead. The latest gesture has been Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's call for an end to the Arab boycott of Israel in exchange for an Israeli freeze on Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

So far, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Jordan have said they supported Egypt's proposal; Israel rejected it outright. This, of course, is not the most important, nor latest, confidence-building measure the Arabs have taken. Syria has dropped its insistence on full United Nations participation and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is no longer insisting on separate Palestinian participation in the peace conference. Furthermore, Syria, through its influence in Lebanon and by the use of the Lebanese army, is seeking to pacify the front with Israel on the border with Lebanon.

Also, Saudi Arabia and the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council have agreed to attend the conference despite the fact that they do not share borders with Israel. All these concessions on behalf of the Arabs and we have yet to see Israel making any commitment, even if only verbal. On the contrary, everytime the Arabs make a gesture, the Jewish state toughens its stand. All indications, therefore, point to one stark fact: Israel does not want peace. It does not want to exchange land for peace or negotiate with the Arabs on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. That is why we feel the Israeli leadership, the Likud, is determined to sabotage the American effort. Instead of easing settlement building, described by the U.S. as the main obstacle to peace, it has stepped up their building. Contrary to what Secretary Baker intends, to convene a conference immediately — preferably before autumn when American presidential election campaigns begin — the Israelis seem adamant to use whatever delay tactics they can muster in order to render American efforts useless by the beginning of 1992. If this is the truth, and Secretary Baker is certainly the best judge of this, then it is not "hypothetical" for the Arabs to ask: What would the Americans do? If the Americans were able to get the Arabs to give concessions, are they willing to put some pressure on the Israelis to reciprocate?

We know that Mr. Baker's task is a formidable one. We do appreciate his efforts, willingness and sincerity. Hoping that he would find some opening in Israeli intransigence, we wish him the best of luck.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i daily Sunday expressed astonishment and dismay at renewed threats for the use of force against Iraq and said that such threats like those coming from U.S. Gen. Colin Powell are not justified at all. The paper pointed to the fact that Iraq has satisfied the U.N. inspection teams and has been fully complying with the U.N. resolutions, thus offering no chance for any aggression by any party. Furthermore, Powell's threats coincide with a tour by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker designed to settle the Middle East conflict peacefully, the paper noted. As Mr. Baker calls for settling the Arab-Israeli problem by peaceful means and negotiations, Gen. Powell issues threats to Iraq which has complied fully with the U.N. Security Council orders, unlike Israel which continues to occupy Arab territories and reject all U.N. resolutions, the paper continued. In the midst of Mr. Baker's current moves for peace, it is really feared that the Americans are preparing for yet another aggression on Iraq, a move which can only poison the atmosphere for the U.S. secretary of state and render his mission a total failure, the paper said. On the other hand if Gen. Powell's threats were meant to intimidate the Arabs into accepting Mr. Baker's dictates, such tactics can by no means serve their purpose either, the paper stressed. The paper said that the time has come for the Western nations in general and the US in particular to stop issuing threats against Baghdad and realise that peace and international legitimacy cannot be divided neither can the destruction of Iraq bring about peace to the region.

Al Dastar daily welcomed US Secretary of State James Baker in Jordan and said that everybody wishes him success in his mission so that peace can be achieved. The paper noted however, that the U.S. secretary would bear from Amman the same firm stand the Kingdom has adopted all along, namely: a peace conference to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions to achieve the aspired peace. Mr. Baker will hear from Amman and the other Arab capitals a positive response to ideas put forth by President Bush who called in a speech last March for the implementation of Security Council resolutions to achieve peace to the Middle East area, the paper noted. It should be pointed out, the paper said, that it is Israel which continues to block any move towards peace by totally rejecting the idea of a conference and the implementation of UN resolutions. Furthermore, the Israeli Jewish settlement and expansionist programme which is now under way, is bound to complicate matters further and make the aspired peace beyond reach, the paper added. By responding favourably to the U.N. resolutions, the Arabs are showing flexibility and willingness to attain peace and by putting the cards on the table and accepting to sit with the Israelis to discuss peace on the basis of U.N. resolutions, the Arabs have thus put the ball right into the Middle of the US-Israeli court, the paper said. For this reason, said the paper, Jordan and the Arab states sincerely wish that Mr. Baker will overcome the Israeli intransigence and crown his mission with success.

Weekly Political Pulse

Whatever happened to Arab nationalism?

ALTHOUGH several long months have elapsed since the formal ending of the Gulf crisis, inter-Arab relations are still no where near the beginning of the end of their conflicts and suspicions. One would have thought that on the strength of the long-held traditional formula of Arab nationalism and Arab brotherhood, the Arab capitals would have started a long time ago the reestablishment of Arab coordination and cooperation on at least the issues that matter most to the overall Arab cause. Yet what we have now in place in the Arab World is the exact opposite in spite of all protestations to the contrary. There are several explanations for this dismal inter-Arab state of affairs.

To begin with the Gulf war caused deeper conflicts and disputes within the Arab World than thought possible at the beginning. The wounds inflicted by the occupation of Kuwait and the war that ensued contributed to deeper drifts between the Arabs. Unlike the past when Arabs would readily heal their wounds and pick up where they had left off, this time around the Arabs are moving rather too cautiously and without undue hesitation in the direction of restoring the Arab order to its pre-war stand.

Secondly, some of the Arab states, especially the rich ones in the Gulf, are rather reluctant to go back to the "good old days" for fear that would mean the resumption of their lavish aid to the poorer Arab countries. As long as inter-Arab relations are kept on hold so would be the return to the times when millions of Gulf money were dished out to the lesser endowed Arab states. Not that the Gulf Arab states were totally convinced of this generous policy on their part. "Takhgil" had more to do with promoting Arab material support to the recipient Arab countries than anything else. With the benefit of a good cause to be angry and upset, the Arab oil governments are exploiting this situation to interrupt the flow of their oil money to the poorer Arab states for

as long as possible. So why hurry and resume brotherly relations when that would necessarily mean the obligation to start again the support for the majority of the Arab states.

A third possible explanation could yet be offered to elucidate the reasons behind the very slow and timid efforts to restore the normal relations among the Arab countries. All along the Arab peoples were deceiving themselves into believing that there is but one Arab nation bound together by the strong forces of Arab nationalism. Many of the Arab peoples were brought up to believe that the current Arab state of affairs where there are some twenty Arab states scattered across North Africa, the Middle East and the Gulf region is really an aberration. Many Arab nationalist continued to entertain the conviction that the existing Arab states are not permanent features but rather provinces soon to be united together by the cohesive forces of Arabism. For many decades the Arab peoples held on to this belief thinking, or rather praying, that the abnormality that persisted in the Arab World would end sooner or later. Many efforts were made to unite the Arab states, but with the exception of the unity forged between the two Yemeni states, none of the other Arab efforts came to full fruition. Slowly but surely the Arab countries became full-fledged sovereign states which guarded their independence more than they have defended Arab causes.

In more than one way, the present Arab states resemble the Latin American states in South America. To be sure the Arab states, as their counterparts in Latin America, share a common language, religions and traditions. Yet somehow all such common denominators never succeeded in bridging the gaps between them. What exacerbates this situation in the Arab World is that the gaps between the different Arab countries are rather on the

increase than on the decrease. Very soon the Arab peoples would simply look back to their once held dreams of Arab nationalism with nostalgia, nothing more.

What better demonstration of this Arab disarray than the way Iraq's nuclear programme was left for destruction by the West on behalf of Israel. It is one thing to blame Baghdad for occupying Kuwait and for bringing on to itself destruction and death and quite another to desert its nuclear programme which in the final analysis is an Arab nuclear programme. The least that the Arab side could have done in the face of determined efforts to neutralise the Arabs' only nuclear capability is to call for the dismantling also of Tel Aviv's decades-long nuclear and thermo-nuclear capabilities. Surely no one in his right mind would like to see the Middle East region go nuclear given the uncertainties and instability of the area. But to leave the Arab peoples at the mercy of Israel's proven nuclear prowess is something bordering on suicide.

The truth of the matter, therefore, is that there is no longer an Arab World as such but rather a variety of Arab sovereign states which guard jealously their independence and self-interests more than anything else. So why pretend that there is still Arab nationalism and prospects for Arab unity when the facts reveal the opposite? Even if one wishes to think in terms of EC-styled Arab unity, that also is not in the cards because the Arab states' degree of development and sophistication are no near the stage that would facilitate such a contemporary form of unity. Accordingly, while the Arabs fail to realise their aspired-for nationality and unity, the least they can do under the circumstances is to forge some sort of a front in order to protect their minimum collective interests.

International role for Hungary's Muslim leader

By Gilles Malaise

BUDAPEST, Hungary — The thirty-five looking man in a business suit who offered a warm handshake in the elegant lobby of the Hotel Forum looked more like a merchant banker than a cleric. But Dr. Abdul Rahman Mihalffy, born into a Hungarian family, is now president of the Hungarian Islamic Society and the religious leader of Hungary's Muslim community. Witness to the appeal of Islam for a growing number of Europeans, he may also help his country's economic reconstruction by forging new economic and cultural ties to the Muslim world.

Question: Dr. Mihalffy, like most of the adherents to Islam here, you have got 100 per cent Hungarian ancestors. Is it difficult to be Muslim while being Hungarian and a citizen of a former communist country located in the heart of central Europe?

Answer: May I start with history, to make you understand that Islam isn't a new religion here. Islam, with its tribes, came to Hungary 1,000 years ago. Just like other tribes that contributed to populate the territory, they came from Asia. Some of the newcomers were from the Shiraz area, in Iran. In the 11th century there were tribes that mixed with others coming from the northern part of Africa. These Suni and Shiite tribes went together to Hungary and established Islam in central Europe.

Q: So Islam didn't come with the Turkish invasion in the 16th century?

A: Of course not. The Ottoman influence began four centuries after the episode that I mentioned. The Hungarian tribes came sooner, in 846. They established very strong Muslim communities, which served the Hungarian kings as tax collectors and coin makers. In our National Museum, in Budapest, you can see some of these coins, with the word "Allah" engraved. These tribes were generally known as "Boszermeny," which phonetically sounds like, and means, "Muslim" or "Muslim." You can still find some "Boszermeny streets" in Hungary.

Q: Did the Turkish invasion of Hungary in 1526 bring something new to Islamic communities?

A: Let's go back to the beginning of this century, when Emperor Franz Joseph annexed Bosnia and Herzegovina (in 1908). As a lot of Muslims were living in this area and were to be included in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Parliament of Budapest recognised the Islamic faith in 1917. The communists forgot to abolish this law, and we used it to gain recognition.

Q: How do you see your role?

A: We are trying to be spokesmen for our religion — not a state, not an interest. Being Hungarian, we can be regarded as a minority, of course, in the Islamic world, which represents one billion people. But the Arab World, as part of the Islamic world, represents only 140 million people. It is a minority, too, among non-Arab Muslims. So,

A: I believe that the most important fact in our history was the Turkish settlement but the moment when Austria expelled them in 1526. At the same time, they expelled all Muslim influence. After this period came two centuries without Islam. Some traces of Muslim and Turkish communities remained, but they were insignificant.

Q: What about the situation today? In view of the communist policies of outlawing religions, the society must be quite new?

A: We now have 200 families of Hungarian Muslims. They are registered in our Hungarian Islamic Society. When we decided to form an association in the 1980s, religious groups (whether Muslim, Christian or Jewish) were not accepted. I won't say they were forbidden, because the government's policies had softened a bit. They had realised that they had to change policies as a matter of survival; they had to establish closer links with the people, partly through religion; this is why our society was recognised in 1988.

Q: Are the members descendants of the original Islamic community?

A: Today the majority of our people have converted to Islam.

Q: How did you manage to be recognised officially by the former government? With no deep-rooted Muslim community in the country, it must have been difficult to prove that Islam existed here.

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As leader of Hungary's Islamic community, Dr. Abdul Rahman Mihalffy is hoping to help the new democratic government forge ties with the Muslim world (WNL photo).

with our 200 families, in a way we are part of the majority!

Q: When you say 200 families, how many people does that make?

A: I estimate between 1,000 and 3,000 Muslims. It is quite difficult to get accurate statistics, many Muslims answering questions regarding their religion say that they are Catholic, because it is the first religion here. Jews will give the same answer. We know very well that many Islamic-rooted families are still living in an area located in southern Hungary and called Kunsag, which comes from the name of Kuns Muslim invaders. They came here many times before the Turks, like all the tribes. So if we analyse the origin of families from regions just like Kunsag, we could find thousands of people with Muslim roots.

Q: Can you still trace the origin of the names?

A: Of course. You will find people with family names like Teherani (from Tehran), Szultani, Solimani, Vilate (from Vilajet), and villages called Medina.

Q: And what about your name? And your own roots?

A: Abdul Rahman Mihalffy is my name as a convert, as a sheikh. My family name is Mihalffy and my Christian name is Balazs. I was born a Christian. I never thought I would turn to Islam. For five years, while attending university in Hungary, I shared a dormitory room with a Sudanese. For the five years he spoke to me only in Arabic. After three years I could write, read and take an exam in Arabic. He wasn't a Muslim, but when I asked him what was the best book in his language, he answered, the Koran. And I decided to translate it (into Hungarian). During the

eight years it took me to translate the Koran I also read some original books on Islam written in the 6th and 7th centuries. That is how I became a convert.

Q: What about your relationship with other Islamic countries?

A: At the beginning it was difficult. The local communist Office for Church Affairs wanted me to change some statutes of our society. Because they were in line with the Koran, and I am not in a position to change the Koran, I refused. I then had some problems and my permission to travel was withdrawn. It was so very difficult to establish contacts with Islamic sources and countries.

After Miklos Nemeth was elected prime minister, it became possible to have direct contacts worldwide. We now have the best relationships with the Islamic world, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iran, Malaysia, Indonesia.

Q: Thanks to such friendly relations, you must play an official diplomatic role?

A: When the new government came, Mr. Geza Jozsefszky, the minister for foreign affairs, asked me if I would like to play some role as an advisor in Middle East affairs. And I said yes. But of course I remain a church leader.

Q: Then your role in both religious and political?

A: "We Muslims have our own interests. But as Hungarians we also have to serve our national interests. But these two interests don't have to interfere with each other. I think there is no problem with being a spokesman for religious and political affairs. In case there was a conflict between the two, I would drop the political side. I consider myself more a religious man than a politician.

Q: What about funding for your group? Do you receive foreign aid?

A: In the last four years, we have not accepted any foreign aid to our group, but I am encouraging Arab nations to invest in companies here that would allow Hungarian Muslims and non-Muslims to work together. To put our society in the position of intermediary in economic relations between Islamic countries and Hungary would strengthen our country's political position in the middle of Europe. We have

a clear picture of what the future of Islam in Europe should be, and we are planning for this future.

Q: Are you travelling a lot in the Muslim countries?

A: Of course. I have been to Mecca several times. The countries that I have not visited are Kuwait, the (United Arab) Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar. But, Inshallah! I expect to visit them soon.

Q: What is your position regarding fundamentalism?

A: It depends on what people mean by fundamentalism. If we return to "fundamentals," I believe that the fundamental tenets of Islam are very moderate. I think that (what's happening now) should be called not fundamentalism but traditionalism. These very radical people return to their own traditions, not to the Islamic rules. So, extremist and radical movements cannot be compared to the original Islamic laws.

Q: To take the case of Algeria, which has been brought to the brink of civil war, do you think that the adherents of fundamentalist leader Abassi Madani are traditionalists?

A: I think it is a political question. In cases where any kind of church is seeking political power, then it loses all the features of the church. No religion should be allowed to have political power because in the process religious values are lost. Speaking about Algeria, if you return to the teachings of the Prophet, all of them say that we have to help the poorest people. I don't think they are doing it now. They have to distinguish between religious and political values, which they aren't doing. Take an example. Your father, dead or alive, is still in your heart. But if he becomes a minister, perhaps you can't accept his orders. Religion plays the same role. It has to give commands to your internal spirit, not outside.

Q: How do you explain the popularity of Islam in Europe, which has seen many conversions recently?

A: People are adopting Islamic values because they fit the 20th century. True Islam is a modern religion, and it can be successful here. In fact, Europe needs not only Islam but any kinds of religious values — World News Link.

40-year boycott meant to pressure Israeli economy

The Associated Press
FOR 40 years the Arab World has been trying, with only limited success, to apply economic pressure on Israel.

According to an announcement in Saudi Arabia, the wealthiest country in the 22-member Arab League, the boycott would be lifted in exchange for an Israeli commitment to stop Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Even before the offer was made, Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens rejected any such trade-off, saying: "A country cannot give up, even temporarily, on its fundamental rights."

For Israel, the move would be less an economic boon than a symbolic gesture signifying a lessening of Arab hostility. Israel has managed to chip away at the boycott to some degree over the years, and made adjustments to compensate for lost trade.

Hundreds of companies worldwide have eschewed millions of

dollars in trade with Israel. But the boycott has been most harmful to U.S. firms, costing them millions of dollars in Arab business because U.S. law forbids them to reject trade with Israel. Japanese firms, according to Jewish organisations that track the black lists, are the most compliant with the boycott, partly because Japan relies heavily on oil from the Middle East and partly because Arab markets are more lucrative than the small Israeli one.

Such giants as Toyota, Nissan and Toshiba are among those abstaining from trade with Israel, according to a recent report by the World Jewish Congress (WJC).

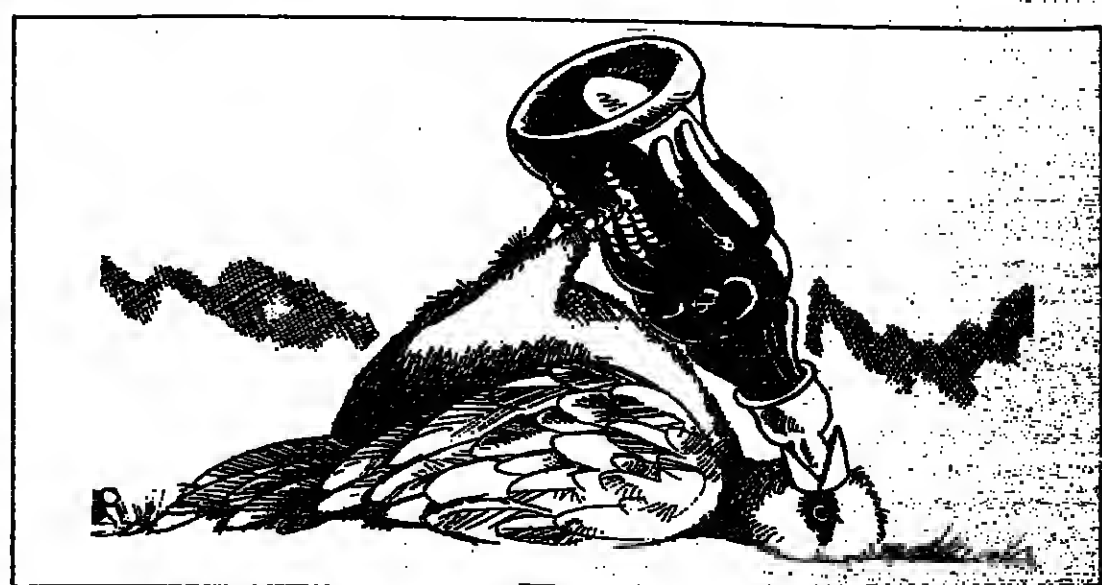
The WJC and other Jewish groups have mounted an intense lobbying effort with Japan to reverse the longstanding boycott adherence. The ultimate goal of this effort is to abolish the boycott so that Israelis and Arabs can trade with Israel.

The United States passed a law in 1976 banning compliance with the boycott. U.S. firms caught abiding by the boycott are subjected to heavy fines.

The boycott offices in Damascus keep close tabs on companies doing business with Israel and have about 300 U.S. companies on their list — which is not publicly available.

Among them are AT and T, Avis, Bell Telephone Labs, Continental Grain, Hughes Aircraft, Mattell Inc. and Paramount Picture Corporation, according to Jewish groups.

Blacklisted firms are banned from operations and sales in the Arab World, although some countries are stricter in their enforcement than others. For example, even though Coca Cola was officially blacklisted for 20 years, Oman and Bahrain allowed bottling plants to open two years before the firm was officially removed from the boycott lists last May.



But at the same time that it announced the lifting of the Coca Cola boycott, the Arab League slapped sanctions on companies owned by British publishing tycoon Robert Maxwell.

Mr. Maxwell ran afoul of the Arab League after he bought a majority of shares in the Israeli newspaper Ma'ariv.

Under pressure from the U.S. Congress, Kuwait has virtually stopped complying with the boycott since the Gulf war.

Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

again, saying that it was a hypothetical question.

"However, it is my hope that we could see the convening of this conference within a reasonable period of time," Mr. Baker said. "It would be preferable, of course, if we could see that upon the acceptance of the important parties."

Mr. Baker explained that the purpose of the proposed conference will be to launch direct bilateral negotiations between Israel and Palestinians on the one hand and Israel and her Arab neighbours on the other.

"So the willingness of countries to attend the conference clearly constitutes a willingness to stand on the basis that it has been outlined in the American proposal," the American official stated.

The King, who expressed satisfaction with the results of his talks with Secretary Baker, said that peace in the region was "now closer than we have ever been."

On Palestinian participation in the conference, the King said that Jordan was in contact with the Palestinians to study the possibility of having a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation take part in the proposed conference.

"We are in touch with the Palestinians, our brethren, to look at the possibility of what we have suggested as the umbrella of a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. And I hope that we will see some progress along that track too," King Hussein said.

Asked whether Palestinians from outside the occupied territories would also take part in the negotiations, the King said: "I think you will find that there are Palestinians outside the (occupied) territories in the government of Jordan, in Jordan itself. What we are talking about is a solution... and obviously I think that the efforts have been so far concentrated on how to try to deal with the plight of people in the occupied territories."

"I hope somehow that when we seek a comprehensive solution, it will eventually cover all aspects of this problem," he added.

Both the King and Mr. Baker described their talks as "frank, open and productive."

King Hussein said Middle East conflict "is of mutual concern to the U.S., to ourselves and to all in this region."

"We feel much change in the recent past, and I believe that with every visit that Secretary Baker has made to this region, we have seen the will of the world — the people of good will — move forward hopefully towards the fulfilment of a dream and the realisation of a dream and hopes that have been with us for years and years of a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian-Israeli, the Arab-Israeli problem. So right now, the visit has come at a time when we have seen progress here in the region and in the world," the King said.

He added that Jordan was always committed to peace, and with the developments regarding the attitudes of many Arab states "do not exclude us but put us among the first... I hope we'll see progress."

Mr. Baker, apparently referring to Syria's recent acceptance of the peace conference proposal agreed that the change of attitude from some Arab countries, is "very heartening to us."

"We hope that that will generate even further movement," Mr. Baker commented.

King Hussein highlighted the ramifications of the problems in the Middle East, saying that the problem was "bigger than Jordan, bigger than Palestine, bigger than Israel, bigger than Syria. It is a regional problem, it is a world problem."

He added: "And we are seeking a comprehensive solution I believe that is the position of the U.S., in terms of the president and the administration, and the world wants a solution to this problem... to continue to work towards it. So there is a lot of work being done and we are making progress."

The King described as ridiculous a persistent reporter's question whether Jordan was prepared for direct bilateral talks with Israel.

"What do we attend the conference to do? To make faces at each other? Or to discuss how to resolve the problem?" the King asked.

Jordan Times Staff reporter Mariam M. Shahin has just returned from a visit to Iraq. In the first of three articles she describes the state of things in the south of Iraq.

BASRA — In 50 degrees of heat and a constantly raging wind and dust, this port city, once known for its vibrant commercial activity and night life, lies on the verge of death from exhaustion.

The physical effects of an eight-year war with Iran, allied bombings during the war and what amounted to civil war afterwards have all left the city with around 60 per cent of the population it had in 1979.

At first sight it is also clear that the government in Baghdad has been guilty of not according the country's second largest city its due. Assistance has not been forthcoming in any way proportional to the city's needs, as is evident by the poor condition it is in.

But it was the allied bombings that have done the most damage to the city's ability to serve itself. While many communication, electricity and industrial sites in Basra were downed by the allies, bridges and many residential areas were also hit.

The salty water that flows out of the few taps that still work cannot be desalinated because the desalination plant has been destroyed.

Bombed residential areas, proportionately greater in number than Baghdad's, were evidently not "surgically" destroyed. Instead, entire neighbourhoods have caved in roofs. The number of casualties is not known and there seems to be no-one interested in estimating the damage or the number of victims.

At the height of the economic blockade, Basrans received relatively little help from supply stations in the central provinces and had to survive off their own agricultural produce. Much of what was needed in imports was being supplied through Iran, residents say.

One local employee of the government, who is evidently critical of several of the policies still being carried out, explained the relationship between Basra and the Iranians.

"We did not want the war with Iran but we fought it because we are Iraqis. We fought and suffered more than the rest of Iraq. Some who would not fight for personal and religious reasons fled to Iran at the time. These same people made sure that we received much needed supplies during the economic sanction period from August to January," says Hassan, who requested that his last name not be used.

"Many of the young men from Basra who make up the lower ranks of the army died while retreating from Kuwait and many of those who came back were injured. They came back to a destroyed city and yet another defeat for Basra. Encouraged by the Islamic opposition in Iran, the revolt against Baghdad began," Hassan says.

Civil war

According to Hassan, the

resentment among the lower classes in Basra had been smoldering for over a decade and he believes the three-week civil war that raged in March could have been avoided had Baghdad shared its wealth more equally with the southern provinces.

"It is not an issue of Shiite versus Sunni: it is a class struggle between the centre and the south, he says insistently.

Though the number of dead in Basra is still unknown, bullet holes in many parts of the city, particularly in the poorer areas, attest to the intensity of the fighting that followed the war.

Not only were bastions of the local government and the Baath Party destroyed by the rebels, but many commercial centres were looted and burned as well. While a certain percentage of the destruction certainly occurred during the crossfire between government forces and the rebels, the rebels seem to be responsible for a fair share of the damage.

The burnt-out Koran school in the poor Hussineh district was a major headquarters for the rebels. The women who hover in the district, dressed in the exclusive black abayas worn by all women in southern Iraq, say they fled to the countryside during the fighting.

"The destroyers came from Iran. Our sons would never do this, our sons are martyrs, our sons are nationalists, our sons are heroes," shouted one woman when asked who was responsible for the damage.

While the young and old men of Basra have certainly fallen martyr in one of the many battles fought during the last ten years, their "martyrdom" is questioned by some those who remained in Basra during the disturbances say the local boys became vandals during the revolt. Both Hassan and George, a Christian businessman who also spoke on the condition of anonymity, say that the local boys returning from the war front were responsible for much of the destruction and in particular for the looting that spread through Basra like wildfire in the beginning of March.

"We were so scared. I only got out of the house to get some food, we were living in fear," says George.

"They did here what they did in Kuwait. They broke into stores and homes to loot and destroy," he says.

Hassan is quick to explain why the returning soldiers and a proportionate number of young men who joined the rebels in Basra and did the looting and the damage.

"Their lives were meaningless. They were thrown on the war front again and again. They came home to find their families and city increasingly poor and miserable. They were too poor to marry and had little to live on but not enough to die either. They became savages, it was the natural conclusion to such a state of

affairs," Hassan says.

While many locals admit that the hatred for Kuwaitis was only natural, because Kuwaitis and Saudis had used Basra as their haven for women and liquor, some criticise the destructive methods used by the rebels.

"I understand that the boys hated the Kuwaitis for using Basra as their brothel. I don't understand why would they destroy their own city so badly, however," said one local merchant. "They seemed not to have an ideological basis as many have claimed," he said, referring to speculation by some that the rebels were motivated by Islamic revolutionary tendencies.

No development aid

Walking through Basra, it quickly becomes evident that the legendary city of Sinbad the sailor is suffering partly because of the well-known effect of central planning. In the economic planning theory, most prominently practised in South America, any area beyond a country's chosen centre is almost ignored in receiving a proportionate share of the country's wealth and developmental assistance.

When the city of 90 per cent Shiites awakes in the early hours of the morning to guarantee its own existence in 40 degree temperature, the local souq opens its doors to those who can still afford to buy what they need at local market prices.

For the majority, those who live off government coupons, life remains a daily struggle to just survive, as it has been for most of the last ten years.

Foreign aid workers sitting at the Difaah Hotel, where electricity intermittently goes on and off, say that one of the most dangerous effects of the war is the lack of public sanitation and electricity services which would guarantee clean and drinkable water to the population.

Communicable diseases, health workers say, are spreading fast. Children are the primary but not the only victims. Medicines and the much-needed water purification tablets are not available for all of the city's 850,000 residents.

According to one Dutch relief worker, the mortality rate among newborn babies in Basra is as high as 15 per cent.

Only a limited number of international humanitarian aid organisations, run by skeleton staff, are trying to alleviate the endless misery that the people in and around Basra are facing. While the government is still handing out rations to its citizens, the emergency situation still prevailing in the city looks like it could continue forever.

Playing dominoes at a popular sidewalk cafe, one man claims that life has not changed for him since the last war.

Between puffs of his water-pipe, another man says that the American bombing of Basra had made life much more difficult than before because it had rendered the city incapable of giving its citizens the most basic services. "We have been cut off from the world. No

telephones, no news, no water and no reconstruction," said Khalil Mohsen, 50.

Public opinion seems to differ on what effect the last two wars have had on the people of Basra, with some insisting that their lives have not changed.

The men interviewed all gave their ages at anywhere between 50 and 60, yet no-one looked younger than 70 or 75. The fast aging effect alone is an indicator of the stress the people of Basra have been experiencing.

According to one young government-affiliated Basra resident, life in Basra changed as a result of the war for some and not for others.

With relatively little government funding for developmental projects flowing into the city even before the Iran-Iraq war ten years ago, the city's commercial classes tried to take care of their own whenever government policy allowed for the free import-export transactions to take place unhindered by bureaucracy.

The result has been that the trickle down effect has never reached many of the impoverished masses. Since feudal days, says Hassan, southern Iraq has had these impoverished masses, many of whom originate in the villages around Basra. They went from being impoverished by feudal landlords to being only slightly better off under what the state called socialism, he says.

The rich mercantile classes, says Hassan, have not grown. They remain the same, Shiite and Christian and sometimes Armenian families that controlled the cities' commercial life in the last century. But even the commercial sector of Basra looks impoverished beyond recognition. The gold and silver market is meager and the famous electricity street has a limited selection of second class electronic equipment and third class watches.

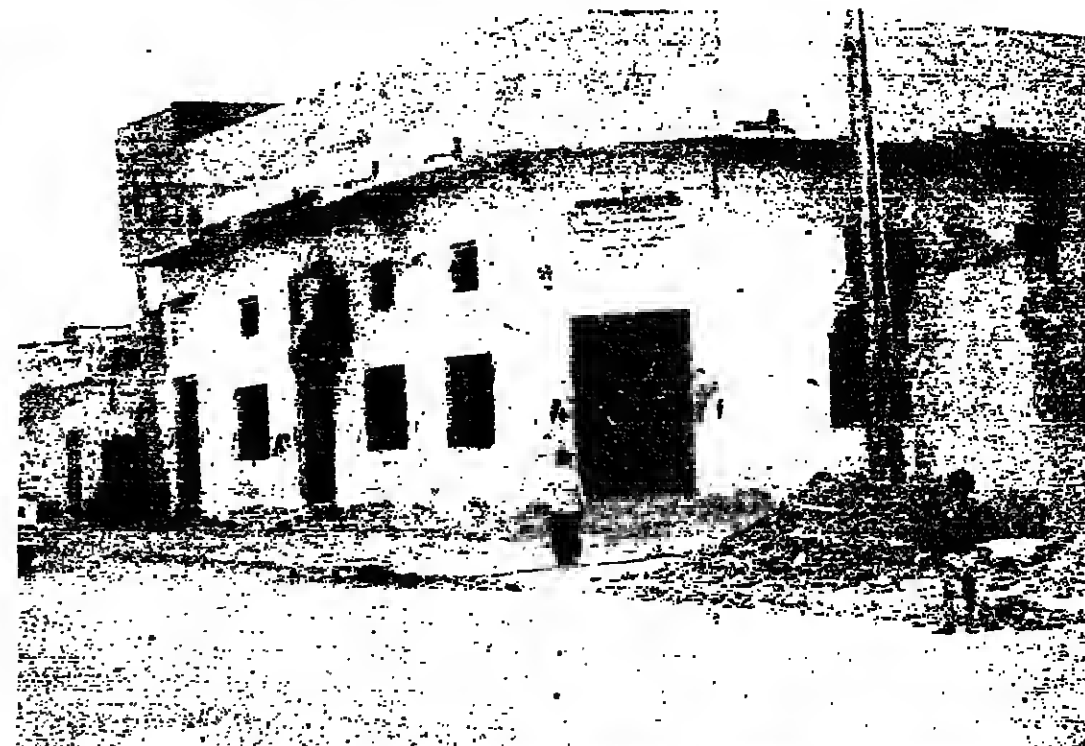
While many young men from Basra served on the Kuwaiti front and admittedly did their share of looting, almost everything worth anything has gone to Baghdad.

"There is no-one left to buy anything from us," said an antiquities dealer in the old souq of the city. "The foreign tourists disappeared with the Iran-Iraq war. The wealthy in Basra have left for Baghdad or abroad. Who will buy nice carpets, silver or gold?" he asks.

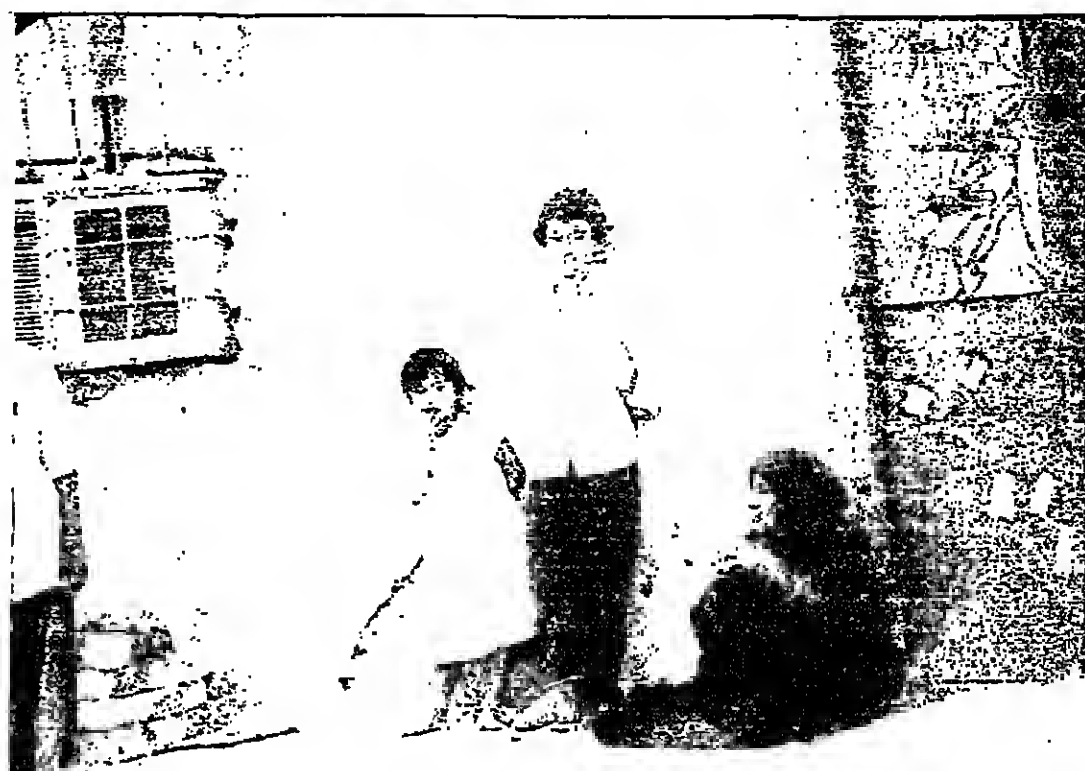
Those who can afford to leave Basra are leaving for places where they believe life is more bearable. Meanwhile, the misery among the poor is on the rise.

Officials in Baghdad say that once the economic sanctions are lifted, 65 per cent of the government budget will go towards developmental projects to include all parts of the country.

Observers in Basra believe that if the central government, in Baghdad does not give Basra and other cities and rural areas in the south a more than proportionate amount of developmental aid and effort, another rebellion of the poor in the south will be inevitable.



(Above) Basra's Hussineh, the headquarter of the rebels in the early March revolt and (below) recently patched bullet holes in the door and the walls, indications of intense fighting against government troops (photo by Mariam Shahin).



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Lewis blazes to victory in 100m

NEW YORK (AP) — A patient Carl Lewis blazed to an impressive victory in the men's 100 metres and flamboyant Sandra Farmer-Patrick continued her domination of the women's 400-metre hurdles Saturday in the New York Games at Columbia University's steamy Wien Stadium.

Meanwhile, Tony Dees upset Greg Foster in the men's 110-metre hurdles and Mary Slaney finished a badly beaten fifth in the women's 800 metres, won by Maria Mutola, a high school student from Mozambique.

Lewis, the two-time Olympic gold medalist and former world record-holder, waited through three false starts — one each by Lee McRae and Cubans Andres Simon and Jorge Luis Aguilera — and his own customary slow start before charging into the lead after about 40 metres.

He finished in a meet-record 10.02 seconds, leading a 1-2-3 sweep for the Santa Monica Track Club. Mike Marsh was second in 10.17 and Mark Witherspoon third in 10.21.

McRae, who had set the meet record of 10.21 in 1989, was last in the eight-man field Saturday in 10.66.

"Today I felt like me again," said Lewis, who looked much sharper than he did at the Athletic Congress' U.S. National Championships last month at New York. "I was prepared more technically than at TAC."

Farmer-Patrick, who set the

American record of 53.37 in this meet in 1989, ran another strong race, clocking 53.77. It was the seventh time she has broken 54 seconds.

Farmer-Patrick, wearing a flowing, red chiffon skirt over her regular racing uniform, and Kim Batten, the U.S. champion, were even coming off the eighth hurdle.

Then, the stronger and more experienced Farmer-Patrick took control and went on to win by about 14 metres, avenging her loss to Batten in last month's National Championships in New York.

"I'm trying to add a little femininity — we need some excitement in track and field," Farmer-Patrick said of her outfit.

Batten finished second Saturday in 55.06.

The air temperature at the start of the meet was 95 degrees Fahrenheit (35 Celsius) — it later reached 97 F (36 C) — with the field temperature at 120 F (49 C). Dees, who failed to make the U.S. team for the World Championships, beat all three members of the team in the 110 hurdles.

The start of the race was marred by five false starts, but when it finally began, Dees was ready. He surged to the front immediately and led all they way in winning in 13.18, his personal best. The time made him the third-fastest performer in the world this year, behind Britain's Colin Jackson (13.09) and Foster (13.10).

Foster, obviously irked by the rash of false starts, got off slowly and his late-race surge fell short.

Foster, the U.S. champion, finished second in 13.26.

Mutola, 18, entering her senior year at Springfield High School, used a powerful kick to win the 800 in 2 minutes, 0.22 seconds.

Slaney, competing in her first 800 since setting the American record in 1985, seized the lead at 200 metres and held it until Meredith Rainey passed her coming off the final curve.

The weary and oft-injured Slaney not only was passed by Rainey and Mutola down the stretch but also by Celeste Halliday and Joetta Clark, and wound up fifth in 2:01.28 — more than four seconds off her U.S. record of 1:56.90.

Jim Spivey, who also failed to make the U.S. team for the World Championships, continued his recent string of strong performances, romping to victory in the mile in 3:52.74.

Danny Everett, the fourth-place finisher in the men's 400 at the U.S. Championships, took the 200 in 20.13, making him the fourth-fastest performer of the year.

Other men's winners included Danny Harris in the 400 hurdles in 49.45; Andrew Valmon in the 400 in 45.04; Llewellyn Starks in the long jump at 26 feet, 11 inches; Johnny Gray in the 800 in 1:46.00; Kory Tarpenning in the pole vault at 18-4; Brian Diemer in the 3,000-metre steeplechase in 8:55.24.



Carl Lewis

8:32.77; and Alex Zaluskas of Canada in the high jump at 7-7. Cuba won the 400 relay in 39.44.

The other women's winners included Gwen Torrence in the 100 in 11.00; Kim McKenzie in the 100 hurdles in 12.94; Rochelle Stevens in the 400 in 50.97; Margaret Keszeg of Romania in the 3,000 in 8:54.90; Angie Bradburn in the high jump at 6-2; and Svetlana Rogova of the Soviet Union in the 2,000-metre steeplechase in 6:55.24.

Seles, Capriati to meet in Pathmark tennis final

MAHWAH, N.J. (AP) — The Pathmark Tennis Classic got what it wanted: Monica Seles and Jennifer Capriati in its final.

It came, however, only after Kathy Rinaldi had almost ruined Seles' much publicized return to tennis after skipping Wimbledon because of shin splints and a stress fracture in her left leg.

Rinaldi, ranked 72nd, extended Seles to three sets Saturday night before dropping a 6-2, 2-6, 6-1 decision to the world's top-ranked player.

"The leg is fine, but you can see I am not in the form I want to be in," said Seles, who after the match announced she would not represent Yugoslavia in the Federation Cup in England, starting Monday.

"In the second set, I had a few bad steps," she said. "The leg was tired. I have to be careful."

The victory put Seles into the final against Capriati, who defeated Peanut Louie-Harper 6-4, 6-4 Saturday afternoon.

"I've played Jennifer a lot and we always put on a good show," said Seles, who had not lost a set in her first two matches here.

Seles, 17, looked like she would advance in straight sets as had the 15-year-old Capriati. But Rinaldi changed those plans in

the second set, running down every Seles shot and prompting the Yugoslav into several unforced errors.

"In the second set, the biggest thing was she broke me," Seles said after the 1-hour, 33-minute match. "I lost my concentration after that and she served several good games. The third set I controlled a little more."

Seles looked slow and tired at times in the second set, but not in the third. She held serve in the opening game to restore her confidence as well as her lead, then used a combination of moon balls, two-handed forehands and backhands to jump to a 5-0 lead.

Rinaldi, 24, managed to hold at love in the sixth game and force a deuce in the seventh before Seles won the final two points.

Capriati, who lost last year's final here to Steffi Graf in three sets, struggled against Harper, who at 30 is twice her age.

There were times when the opening set was up for grabs, but it swung Capriati's way on a bad call in the eighth game.

Harper was leading 4-3 and the score was tied 30-30 when Capriati appeared to hit a ball long. Harper watched the ball bounce and didn't bother to return it.

Seles likely to be forgotten as Federation Cup begins

NOTTINGHAM, England (R) — Absent world number one Monica Seles could find herself swiftly forgotten when the leading nations in the 1991 Federation Cup swing into action Monday.

Seles withdrew from the Yugoslav team 36 hours before the scheduled start, saying she was still suffering from a leg injury, but organizers of the 56-nation tournament are still boasting a cluster of leading players.

Wimbledon champion Steffi Graf, 15-year-old American Jennifer Capriati and Spain's Arantxa Sanchez Vicario will all play — each keen to make the most of a rare chance to represent their countries.

The strong U.S. team featuring Capriati, Mary Joe Fernandez, Zina Garrison and Gigi Fernandez are favorites to win the event and maintain a fine American tradition.

Defending the trophy they won in Atlanta last year, the Americans have lifted the title 14 times in its 28-year history. Australia is the next most successful nation with seven wins.

Despite that imposing record, the Spanish team, based around Sanchez and Conchita Martinez,

are seeded number one on the basis of combined world rankings.

Germany, spearheaded by the impressive combination of Graf and the promising Anke Huber, is seeded second with the Americans third.

After three days of qualifying matches Monday's main draw includes 32 countries.

Matches will consist of two singles matches and a doubles, a prospect which Seles decided was too daunting.

The Yugoslav Tennis Federation will have to pay a fine of \$2,000 for her late withdrawal and Seles' decision may also make her ineligible to compete in next year's Barcelona Olympics.

An International Tennis Federation spokeswoman said they had "not been losing any sleep" over Seles' behaviour and organizers are hopeful crowd figures will not be affected by her non-appearance.

The newly-constructed main court at the city of Nottingham Tennis Centre seats 6,000 spectators and was booked out for the opening ceremony conducted by the Princess of Wales.

U.S. steps up World Cup planning

WASHINGTON (AP) — From Boston to Hawaii and Seattle to Miami, 27 urban hotbeds of soccer are competing to host matches in the 1994 World Cup soccer championship, the globe's largest single-sport tournament.

The U.S. organizers cited these numbers this week in Washington to emphasize growing American interest in the tournament. They want the U.S. Congress to authorize the minting of commemorative coins to help finance the month-long, 52-match tournament.

The delegation included Pele of Brazil, regarded as the greatest soccer star of all time, the co-chairman of World Cup USA 1994, Inc., and Shannon Higgins, a member of the U.S. national women's team that will compete in the first women's World Cup in China in November.

"It has been a privilege, and I say that very humbly, to have been a small part of helping soccer conquer America," said Pele.

Since he interrupted his retirement in 1975 to play for the New York Cosmos of the defunct North American Soccer League, Pele said the number of people playing soccer in the United States has increased tenfold, to 16 million people.

Korean breaks Student Games marathon record

SHEFFIELD, England (AP) — South Korea's Yung-Jo Whang sliced 1 minute 53 seconds off the World University Games record Sunday when he won the men's marathon.

Whang covered the distance in 2 hours, 12 minutes, 40 seconds to beat the 2:14:33 Hungarian Tibor Baier set at Duisberg, Germany two years ago.

The women's gold went to Japan's Miyako Iwai in 2:36:27. In the pool, American freestyler Jenny Boyd set a new games record in the 50 metres beats but lost it four minutes later.

The 23-year-old Goodwill Games silver medalist clocked 26.11 to slice 0.13 second off the 4-year-old mark countrywoman Ann Drolson set in Zagreb, Yugoslavia.

But in the next heat, China's world record-holder Yang Wenyi swam 26.03 to beat Boyd's mark.

Frenchman Stephan Caron completed an unprecedented sweep of the freestyle swimming gold medals at the World University Games Saturday, adding the 50-metre title to his victories in the 100 and 200 metres.

Slow off the block, the Olympic 100-metre bronze medalist surged past Germany's Robert Puffeb in the last 20 metres to win in 22.97 seconds.

Only Romanian Naomi Lung, who won four golds at Zagreb, Yugoslavia four years ago, has won more. Two of her gold medals came from the individual medleys.

Agassi, Korda reach Washington final

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defending champion and top seed Andre Agassi needed just over an hour to defeat Jaime Yzaga of Peru 6-3, 6-2 and advance to the final of the Sovran Bank Classic.

Agassi defeated the sixth-seeded Yzaga in 66 minutes. He will face 12th seed Petr Korda of Czechoslovakia in Sunday's final. Korda advanced with a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Markus Zöckle of Germany Saturday.

"It doesn't matter who is the opponent, I'll go out to play my game," Korda said before Agassi's victory. "It doesn't matter if I play Andre, or if Jaime beats him, I'm going to enjoy it."

Yzaga was rattled by a line call during his second service game. Trailing 15-30, a call went against him and he proceeded to lose nine of the next ten points. Agassi was not in serious trouble the rest of the way.

"The scores haven't been challenging," said Agassi, who has not lost a set in nine matches over two years here. "But I always have something I want to do out there that challenges me. I was winning easily, but it has to do with my level of play. If nothing else, I just try going for shots that people wouldn't think of."

The final will be Agassi's first match of the tournament played in daylight.

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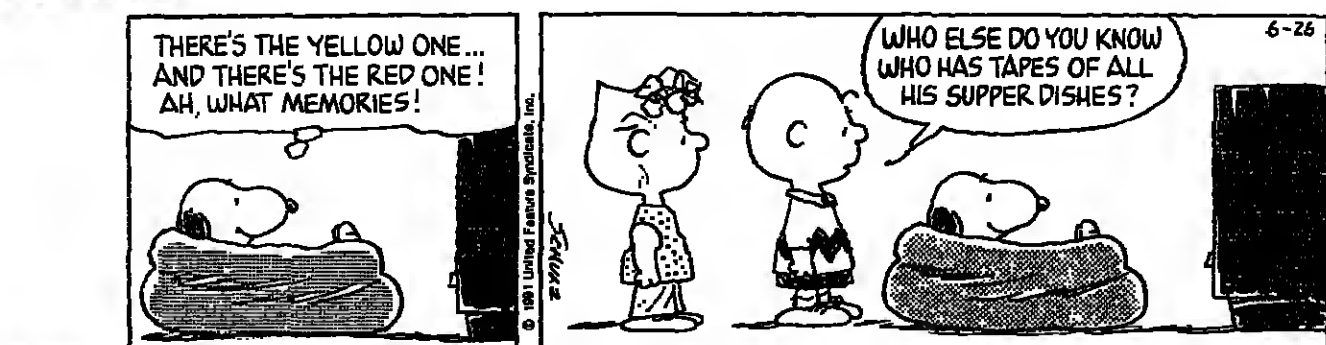
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Peanuts



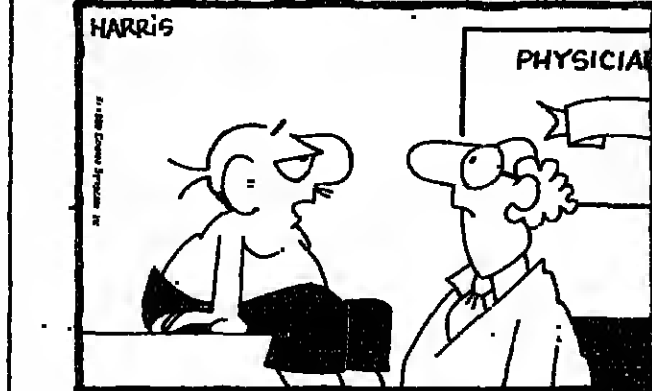
Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



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NORTH
♠ Q J 8 2
♥ Q J 8 4
♦ 8 7
♣ 6 5 4

WEST
♠ 10
♥ 10 6
♦ K J 10 5 2 9 4 3
♣ J 10 2

EAST
♠ 9 7 8 4
♥ 2
♦ A Q 9 6
♣ A

SOUTH
♠ A 5 3
♥ A K 9 7 5 3
♦ A
♣ K 7 3

The bidding: South West North
Pass 1 3 Pass
4 ♦ Dbl 5 6
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠.

If you are in an "impossible" contract, try to find a lie of the cards that will permit you to get home. If you find one, play as if it exists.

North's actions were completely inconsistent. Had he wanted to bid, North should have done so over the three diamond preempt. To bid at the five-level, even after partner had shown a good hand, was rather risky. At duplicate, there might be some justification: at rubber bridge, it's lunacy. North-South could have netted 500 comfortable points from a double. Incidentally, note East's bid of four clubs. Instead of simply raising to four diamonds,

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY JULY 22, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A beautiful day to accept an opportunity now present to use your additional vitality and that clever and ingenious idea you have been saving for just the right moment to spring on associates.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Pay those obligations of all kinds whether they be business, personal or governmental and get behind you every single responsibility that calls.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Whatever you wish to do to arrive at a better understanding with partners is fine so let them know just what you will do to make your relationship better.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is your moment to pitch in at the projects facing you and to do it with such enthusiasm and energy that all tasks are behind you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You are able to see the best manner in which to have a good time and retrieve your sagging spirits so that you have more energy.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is the time to make sure you do what those who are so close to you want instead of making those perpetual changes based on your will.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You have the best ideas you have had for sometime about improving your usual way of doing things and to show you are the one able to be efficient.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You can increase your holding and find the right outlet by which to have more money. Available when you need it to be practical, down to earth.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You now are able to find the answers of a personal nature that are important to you in bringing your personal desires to the attention of all contacts.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Whatever you would like to uncover, the past of any situation is fine now so delve into the mysterious, and get it solved.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You need for some happy times with a good friend or a group of acquaintances should now be put in motion and progress made towards personal satisfaction.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be sure you keep in eye on whatever is public in its nature that you are now doing so you make no mistakes and develop a bad reputation.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 21) You have so many legends and clever new thoughts you would be wise to pursue just how you can put them in motion to achieve good results.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

AGMOD

KEJYR

LISWEY

SABDUR

Print answer here: _____

Saturday's Jumbles: FOIST ESSAY ASTRAY BUBBLE

Answer: He climbed out of his "status quo" in order to improve this—HIS STATUS

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

THE Daily Crossword by Virginia L. Yates

ACROSS

1. 100

5. Occurrence

10. Chipper

14. Morse code

15. At no time

16. Appeal

17. Hurry-up letters

18. Clean forgot

20. Battering

21. Haydon

22. Oppressors

23. Author Keesy

24. Wonders why

25. Chair

26. Tub washing

27. First

32. Less worthy

34. Repeat

38. Too soon

40. Added one's

41. John Hancock

42. Yourself

43. Dark cloth

45. Travis

46. Got beat

48. Put in

50. Use of back

52. Ben's river

53. Avoided

56. Supporter of one's country

58. Nored in a way

62. Post Pound

63. Entreat

64. Had in mind

65. Doyen

66. Lost power

67. Bender

68. Chances

DOWN

1. Kind of cheese

2. Example

3. Posed

4. Spots

5. Remnants

6. Cruz

7. Gloaming

8. Salamander

9. Shadow

10. Got wet

11. Platform item

12. Lass

13. Rattles on

14. Spotted rot

15. Fashion

16. Over

17. Tushingham or

18. Ben Franklin for

19. Sea birds

20. Geoffrey — of

21. "As You Like It"

22. Forest

23. Enjoy Aspen

24. Like some old

Financial Markets
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

Weekly Foreign Exchange Market Summary (July 15 — July 19, 1991)

AFTER rising two per cent of its value under the impact of one of the most aggressive concerted central bank interventions on Friday July 12th, the U.S. currency lost a further two per cent during the second half of last week. The dollar had regained some ground on Monday and Tuesday, as dealers tilted with its upside encouraged by healthy U.S. economic data and positive comments about the U.S. economy by the Federal Reserve chairman. Wednesday, however, witnessed a change in dollar sentiment, which snowballed during the rest of the week taking the U.S. currency to its lowest levels at the end of the week.

The dollar recovered some of its value, mainly against the mark, Monday as interbank and corporate dealers seized the opportunity to buy cheap dollars, after its drop at the end of the previous week. Yet, fear of a further round of central bank intervention prevented the dollar from rebounding sharply. Observers maintained that the impact of the intervention was strong enough to limit the market's reaction to the better than expected U.S. data on Capacity Utilisation and Industrial Production released during the day. Sterling declined temporarily, on the other hand, reflecting a base rate cut by the Bank of England by 0.5 per cent to eleven per cent.

Tuesday witnessed a further dollar rise, as the U.S. currency reached its highest levels of the week against European currencies, closing at 1.6005 marks and at 1.6420 dollars to the sterling pound. The dollar was supported by comments by the Federal Reserve chairman, who was quoted as saying that there are "... compelling signs that the (U.S.) recession is over and that a modest recovery has begun." Nevertheless, fear of intervention by central banks remained intact, and 1.80 marks proved to be insurmountable.

Having failed to breach resistance at 1.80 marks early in the week, dollar sentiment turned bearish Wednesday. A wave of unwinding of long dollar positions ensued, especially after the Bundesbank sold dollars in the open market. Corporate demand provided support for the dollar at 1.7850 marks, however.

Technical dollar selling against European currencies continued Thursday, as unwinding of long positions turned into stop-loss selling, although the U.S. currency climbed to its highest levels of the week against the yen closing at 137.65 yen to the dollar. The dollar drop was accompanied by comments from U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady on the possibility of the Federal Reserve cutting interest rates again, should inflation remain low while the U.S. economic recovery continues.

Friday witnessed further dollar selling activity, as the U.S. currency broke through several support levels, to close at 1.7475 marks, 136.41 yen and 1.6945 dollars to the pound sterling. The bulk of dollar selling continued to be against the mark, which gained ground against the yen closing at 78.06 yen, compared to 76.22 yen at the end of the previous week. The German currency was supported by the Group of Seven pledge to help President Gorbachev in his attempts to reform the Soviet economy. It drew further support from expectations of a possible interest rate increase by the Bundesbank in the near future.

As for this week, some observers maintained that technical factors will continue to direct exchange rates as dollar sentiment remains bearish in the short run. Accordingly, some maintained that the dollar could decline to 1.72 marks, while the next support level could be as low as 1.69 marks, if 1.72 marks is breached.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

| Currency | 12/7/1991 Close | 19/7/1991 Close | Percent Change |
|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Sterling Pound | 1.6493 | 1.6945 | + 2.74% |
| Deutsche Mark | 1.7495 | 1.7475 | - 0.12% |
| Swiss Franc | 1.5493 | 1.5115 | - 2.50% |
| French Franc | 6.0730 | 5.9315 | - 2.33% |
| Japanese Yen | 136.40 | 136.41 | - 0.007% |

USD Per NTG Euro-Currency Interest Rates

| Currency | 12/7/1991 1-Month (%) | 12/7/1991 1-Year (%) | 19/7/1991 1-Month (%) | 19/7/1991 1-Year (%) |
|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| U.S. Dollar | 5.81 | 6.62 | 5.87 | 6.62 |
| Sterling Pound | 11.00 | 10.62 | 10.81 | 10.68 |
| Deutsche Mark | 8.75 | 9.31 | 8.81 | 9.18 |
| Swiss Franc | 7.62 | 7.62 | 7.75 | 7.75 |
| French Franc | 9.50 | 9.56 | 9.12 | 9.43 |
| Japanese Yen | 7.43 | 7.25 | 7.37 | 7.21 |

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 21/7/1991

| Currency | Bid | Offer |
|----------------|--------|--------|
| U.S. Dollar | .685 | .687 |
| Sterling Pound | 1.1591 | 1.1649 |
| Deutsche Mark | .3917 | .3937 |
| Swiss Franc | .4526 | .4549 |
| French Franc | .1153 | .1159 |
| Japanese Yen | .5018 | .5045 |
| Belgian Franc | .01903 | .01913 |

* Per 100

Storm over BCCI global crisis seen subsiding in Jordan

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The storm over the international collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International S.A. (BCCI) appears to have subsided on the local scene, with most local depositors assured that they will not lose their money and the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) holding intense consultations over the future of the Jordanian branches of the scandal-plagued institution.

CBJ assurances that BCCI holdings and assets in Jordan are sufficient to cover deposits and permission for limited withdrawals from BCCI accounts have had a positive effect on the bank's clients, although many depositors are anxious to withdraw their entire deposits, banking circles said.

Account holders have withdrawn about JD 13 million — 50 per cent of it in foreign currency accounts — from the three BCCI branches in Jordan since they reopened July 9 after a three-day closure prompted by the seizure of the Luxembourg-based bank by European governments, BCCI Regional Manager Fakhri Bilbeisi said Sunday.

The withdrawals were permitted under CBJ guidelines which said account holders with a balance of up to JD 1,000 could get all their money and others could get JD 1,000 and 25 per cent of the balance pending a final decision on the fate of the BCCI branches in the Kingdom.

A CBJ-appointed administrative committee is managing the bank's affairs in Jordan.

"There is no panic among our customers," said Mr. Bilbeisi. "Some of them are taking their time for withdrawals, but sooner or later they will want the full amount as permitted," he told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Bilbeisi and senior banking sources said there was no question over the solvency of the BCCI branches in Jordan since almost all of their foreign currency deposits had been transferred to the CBJ before the international operations of BCCI collapsed with the seizure of its assets in Europe on July 5.

Deposits with BCCI in Jordan in foreign currency were said to be equivalent to JD 29 million and in local currency at around JD 36 million prior to July 5.

In addition, all assets of the Jordanian branches of BCCI are within Jordan, Mr. Bilbeisi said. No figures were available on outstanding dues by debtors to the BCCI in Jordan, but banking officials said all large lending transactions were closely monitored by the CBJ under stipulations introduced since the collapse of Petra Bank in 1988, ensuring that there would only be very minimal bad debts.

Reports from London indicated that part of the bank's local credits in various countries had the clients' international deposits with BCCI as collateral for overdraft and lending arrangements. The volume of such credits extended by the BCCI branches in Jordan was not immediately known, but banking sources said it was not of any large significance.

Meanwhile, banking experts



Fakhri Bilbeisi

said, several options remained open for the CBJ to handle the BCCI branches in Jordan.

"They could transfer the license to another existing bank or a new entity without raising the number of banks in the Kingdom," said one expert. "They could find buyers for BCCI on the local scene or they could merge it with another large Jordanian bank," he said.

The CBJ, under the guidance of Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi, is known to favour and advocate limiting the number of banks in Jordan through voluntary mergers.

Liquidation of BCCI in Jordan is another option facing the CBJ, but the expert opinion of bankers in the Kingdom is that such a step would be the last resort for the Central Bank.

"It is doubtful that CBJ would order the liquidation of the bank since all indications are that the institution is more or less in a strong situation on the local scene," said an economic analyst.

"The international course of events related to BCCI will have a major bearing on the CBJ's decision, although no step taken on the international level against BCCI is applicable in Jordan since all banks in Jordan — whether international or otherwise — are governed only by Jordanian banking regulations," said a senior official at a large local bank.

Kuwait says foreign banks clamouring to lend it money

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait says international banks are clamouring to offer it money following its decision to borrow billions of dollars on world capital markets to finance post-Gulf war reconstruction.

Kuwait did not want to borrow the full \$33 billion authorised by the emir last week. Finance Minister Nasser Al Rodhan was quoted Sunday as saying in the Al Watan newspaper.

He put planned borrowing at less than seven billion Kuwaiti dinars (\$23 billion).

"Many offers have come to us from big financial institutions and at very attractive rates of interest and lower than those offered to other corporations and countries," he told the daily.

Kuwait, its oil industry left in tatters by the Iraqis, last week put a ceiling of 10 billion dinars (\$33 billion) on its post-war borrowing.

"We set this ceiling so that we need not resort to amending the law (to authorise more) if the need arose. But the need will definitely be lower than the ceiling," Sheikh Rodhan said.

He said Kuwait, had decided against dumping its \$100 billion plus foreign investments because of the impact such a move would have on world equity markets.

"The Kuwait Investment Authority has begun surveying markets around the world to borrow money. These funds will be made

available to finance the proposed budget for 1991-92 and other financial commitments that arose as a result of the Iraqi occupation and part of the costs of liberating the country," Sheikh Rodhan said.

Kuwait, deprived of its major income, needs cash to finance its budget, post-Gulf war reconstruction and pay for the war efforts of the U.S.-led military alliance.

Iraqi soldiers set fire to up to 600 Kuwaiti oil wells, most of which are still burning.

Kuwait was capable of producing two million barrels of oil a day before the Aug. 2 invasion. It is now pumping about 140,000 barrels for domestic consumption.

The finance minister said Kuwait's economy would improve when oil revenues started rolling in by the end of the year.

"Our situation will improve when we start oil production," he said.

Earlier this month it was reported that a select group of banks was expected to be asked to agree \$2 to \$3 billion in credit, the first tranche in the emirate's planned fund-raising drive.

The reports said the credit would be tightly held by the banks in the group since they did not wish to dilute their lucrative relationship with Kuwait by distributing the credit to competitors.

The finance minister also said



Nasser Al Rodhan

that the budget for the year up to June 1992, delayed because of the Gulf crisis, will be ready in September.

The minister told the newspaper the government did not want spending in the financial year 1991/92 to go beyond the \$11.4 billion originally forecast for 1990/91.

Kuwait budgets run from July 1 to June 30 the next year.

The 1990/91 budget, presented in July last year, was interrupted by the war.

"It is difficult to give a final figure for the budget because it is still being prepared. We will try as much as possible not to allow the budget of this year to exceed last year's," Sheikh Rodhan said in the interview.

Smaller Japanese securities join big 4 brokerage scandal

TOKYO (R) — Japan's brokerage scandal spread at the weekend to include at least four medium-sized security houses which improperly compensated special clients for stock market losses, newspapers reported Sunday.

New Japan Securities Co. Ltd., Kankaku Securities Co. Ltd., Kokusai Securities Co. Ltd., and Wako Securities Co. Ltd. are suspected of covering client losses of 30 billion yen (\$147 million), said the reports in several major dailies.

The reports, attributed to government and securities sources, said the compensation covered a

period between October 1987 and March 1990.

Finance ministry officials spearheading the brokerage scandal investigation are expected to summon the chief executives of the newly implicated firms for questioning this week, the reports said.

An official reached Sunday could not comment on the reports that about 20 small and medium-sized brokerages might eventually be involved.

The country's four biggest securities houses — Nomura Securities Co. Ltd., Nikko Securities Co. Ltd., Daiwa Securities Co. Ltd., and Yamaichi Securities Co. Ltd. — have already admitted compensating a total of 229 customers over the same two-and-a-half-year period.

The compensation, totalling some 126.8 billion yen (\$932.4

million), was made available only to the most favoured customers after stock market declines.

Nomura and Nikko also admitted lending money to the Inagawa-Kai, Japan's second largest crime syndicate, and that their affiliates had bought memberships in a golf club run by the syndicate. The presidents of both Nomura and Nikko resigned last month after the disclosures.

Japan's finance ministry is preparing to slap stringent controls on the securities industry.

Vice Finance Minister Hiroshi Yasuda said Friday his agency would present a bill to parliament in August to ban stock-loss compensation. Although brokerages are barred by a securities law from promising to cover clients' losses there is no provision to actually ban compensation after-ward.

Survey finds reforms vital to avoid stagflation in India

NEW DELHI (R) — India must introduce structural reforms to avoid "stagflation," the government said in an economic survey.

The economic survey said the economy had been battered by a balance of payments crisis, big budget deficits and double-digit inflation.

"Credible structural reforms designed to improve the efficiency and productivity of resource use is an inescapable necessity, if the unavoidable fiscal adjustment is not to lead to stagflation," the 200-page report said.

Stagflation is a combination of industrial recession and high inflation.

The Congress government of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao has moved quickly to try to revive an economy burdened with a \$71 billion foreign debt.

It devalued the rupee by 19 per cent against the dollar, enacted sweeping reforms to a restrictive trade regime, pledged substantial amounts of its gold reserves to raise overseas loans, and promised to overhaul the state-dominated industrial sector.

India's gross national product (GNP) rose about five per cent in

the financial year that ended in March 1991, compared with 5.2 per cent the year before, the survey said.

Inflation measured by the consumer price index was 13.6 per cent against 6.6 in the previous year.

"This higher rate of inflation is also a cause for concern because the price increase has been large in the case of several essential commodities," it said.

The budget deficit in 1990-91 rose to 107.72 billion rupees from 105.92 billion the previous year. The deficit would have to be brought down to 6.5 per cent of GNP in the new budget from its current 8.3 per cent, the survey said.

Diplomats said the deficit reduction was a key condition laid down by the International Monetary Fund before it will give India a \$2 billion loan, expected by October.

"Both the Gulf crisis and domestic political developments affected confidence abroad in the Indian economy. It became more difficult to borrow in international capital markets," the survey said.

Riyadh announces gold find

NICOSIA (R) — Gold has been found southwest of the Saudi capital Riyadh, the Saudi Press Agency has reported.

It said Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Hisham Nazer briefed a cabinet meeting on the find at Hamdah. Sheikh Nazer said he did not yet have full details of the discovery.

Saudi Arabia's second gold mine, in Al Qasim district northwest of Riyadh, started production last month.

The kingdom, the world's biggest oil exporter, has been exploiting other resources to diversify its income.

Crime expert warns of Soviet 'mafia' taking control of economy

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet interior ministry has said that black market dealers could control up to 40 per cent of the economy in the next few years.

The shadow economy's turnover this year was estimated at between 110 and 130 billion roubles (\$180 and \$220 billion at the official exchange rate) by the ministry's top organised crime expert, Alexander Gurov. "In the next few years ... organised crime could control about 30 to 40 per cent of the country's gross national product," he told a briefing, according to the official TASS news agency. Mr. Gurov said a 2,500-strong interior ministry force was operating in 10 of the 15 Soviet republics "to neutralise the mafia clans and their corrupt protectors."

Soviet police believe more than 5,000 organised crime groups of various sizes are operating in the country.

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Pretoria reels under 'dirty tricks' charges

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A row over secret state funding of the Inkatha Freedom Party has revealed only the tip of the South African government's "dirty tricks" iceberg, an opposition politician charged Sunday.

The funding row has confronted President F.W. de Klerk with one of the gravest crises of his term in office and prompted political commentators to suggest the government may have been guilty of far worse abuses.

Kobus Jordaan, a member of parliament for the Liberal Democratic Party, said he had been told late last year that the government had a secret five million rand (\$1.7 million) shish fund.

"I assume the Inkatha payments were just the tip of the iceberg," he said. "When I asked about this money in parliament earlier this year the reply was that it would not be in the public interest to disclose details."

Nelson Mandela, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and leading newspapers demanded the resignation of Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok following the disclosure Friday that police had paid Inkatha 250,000 rand (\$90,000) to stage two rallies.

"De Klerk needs to act drastically and decisively," the widely-read Sunday Star said in an editorial. "For a start he should dismiss Mr. Vlok and (Defence Minister) Magnus Malan."

The paper also reported fresh allegations that an army unit was responsible for killing blacks at random to stoke friction between

Inkatha and Mr. Mandela's African National Congress (ANC). The defence force denied the report.

The Star said Mr. Vlok's admission of help for Inkatha gave weight to charges that security forces were involved in township massacres.

The Johannesburg Sunday Times said the shish fund revelations meant that accusations that state hit squads had assassinated anti-apartheid activists could be well-founded.

"One after another, allegations of evil-doing which seemed incredible have proved to be true," it said in a front-page editorial.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Awie Marais said the money paid to Inkatha had come from a fund controlled by the ministry to combat sanctions.

"One of our prime objectives was to get foreign governments and opinion makers to understand that sanctions did not help the process of change in South Africa," he said.

Mr. Vlok told the Afrikaans newspaper Rapport that in future closer watch would be kept on tax-payers' money and payments like those for the Inkatha rallies in 1989 and 1990 were no longer necessary.

"It is a closed chapter," he said. Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, whose mainly Zulu supporters are locked in a four-year feud with the ANC that has killed about 5,000 blacks, denied knowing about the payments.

Mr. Mandela, in Spain on the

first leg of an 18-day foreign tour, said the government aid for Inkatha threatened negotiations on a new non-racial constitution.

"There can be a complete breakdown in relations between the ANC and the government," he said.

Mr. Mandela has long accused the government of siding with Inkatha to try to destroy the ANC. He has also charged that a "third force" is trying to sabotage peace talks with Mr. De Klerk.

Political commentators urged Mr. De Klerk to restore his credibility to keep power-sharing negotiations on track.

"(He) is in danger of being dragged down by the sinister forces that lurk in his government," the Sunday Times said.

"If his historic endeavour to turn this country from the path of destruction is to proceed, he must soon gain control."

Democratic Party MP Jordaan said he did not think Mr. De Klerk was personally involved in secret payments, adding: "I still believe in his integrity."

A spokesman for Mr. De Klerk said he would have no comment on the latest charges, but noted that the cabinet would hold a regular meeting Monday when the issue would probably be raised.

Archbishop Tutu, who won the Nobel Peace Prize for his anti-apartheid campaigning, said Saturday Mr. De Klerk should resign if it emerged that he had known of the funding.

Meanwhile, a school in Pre-



F.W. de Klerk

toria intended for use by the African National Congress (ANC) was damaged by a bomb blast Sunday for the second time in a week, police said.

They said the bomb blew a hole in the wall around the unused Hillview School. No one was hurt.

Last Sunday a 25-kilogramme bomb, believed to have been planted by right-wing whites, demolished a section of the school building.

The government allocated the school in a white suburb to be used by the ANC for children returning from exile in Tanzania.

In the Cape province city of Port Elizabeth, about 200 whites staged a march Saturday to protest at coloured (mixed race) families who have moved into their previously white suburb.

The protesters, carrying posters demanding that the Algoa Park suburb remain white, paraded outside the homes of two of the coloured families.

ASEAN rejects bid to link aid to human rights

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Stung by charges of human rights abuses in their region, leaders of the Association of South East Asian Nations are using their annual meeting to take a strong stand against the criticism.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad has accused industrialised nations of being condescending when they criticise human rights in Asia.

"The norms and precepts for the observance of human rights vary from society to society and from one period to another within the same society," Mr. Mahathir told the ministers in his opening address.

"Nobody can claim to have the monopoly of wisdom to determine what is right and proper for all countries and peoples. It would be condescending, to say the least, and suspect for the West to preach human rights to us in the East," he said.

A critical report by Amnesty International and recent publication of a controversial "human freedom index" by the U.N. Development Programme has annoyed Asian officials. So did suggestions by the European Community that expanded trade and aid with ASEAN could depend on human rights in the region.

Besides Malaysia, ASEAN members include, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Brunei and the Philippines.

The conference resumes Monday with three days of talks with their major trading partners: The United States, Japan, European Community, South Korea, Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

In his opening speech Friday, Thai Foreign Minister Arsa Sarasin spoke of "unpalatable attempts to link environmental concerns and human rights with economic cooperation."

He referred to ministerial talks in Luxembourg in late May between ASEAN and the European Community. ASEAN rejected an EC attempt to link respect for human rights in Asia with the provision of aid.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said his country shared the "justified concern of all ASEAN countries over the increasing tendency among certain developed countries to attempt to link the issues of human rights and the environment ... in the context of development cooperation."

ASEAN worries that Western trade and aid could be made conditional on such non-trade issues as Western standards of environmental protection and labour and political rights.

As an example, Mr. Mahathir cited a petition to withdraw Malaysia's U.S. trade privileges. "(U.S.) labour organisations may seem to be concerned with the welfare of our workers, but should their petitions result in the withdrawal of GSP privileges, the net result will be to reduce investments in our country and create unemployment among the workers," Mr. Mahathir said.

London-based Amnesty International, in its annual report on human rights released on July 8, listed four of the six ASEAN states as places in Asia where torture, ill-treatment or poor detention conditions were found.

Anger voiced at U.K. army cutback plans

LONDON (R) — Some of Britain's most famous army regiments will march off the parade ground and into the history books under defence cuts expected this week.

Despite battle honours dating back more than 300 years, the regiments have lost their fight against a government determined to reap a peace dividend from the end of the cold war.

The army cutbacks have aroused fierce anger among soldiers and senior members of the ruling Conservative Party.

Defence Secretary Tom King has already announced that the army will fall by 40,000 to 116,000 men over the next three years and on Tuesday the cabinet is expected to decide which regiments will be disbanded or merged.

In setting the overall manpower level Mr. King left it to army chiefs to draw up their own casualty list among the regiments.

In wide speculation over where the axe will fall, local news reports have suggested a last-minute reprieve for a few units.

Serving officers are forbidden from public comment, but retired generals have sprung to their old regiments' defence.

Clamorous public relations campaigns have been waged alongside discreet lobbying exercises in the corridors of power. Field Marshal Lord Bramall, chief of the defence staff from 1982 to 1985, told the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) that the government had gone "over the top" in cutting the army.

George Younger, Mr. King's predecessor as defence secretary, said the cutbacks would leave the army "overstretched."

The army points to the British regimental system, with its time-honoured customs and family ties going back generations, as a unique means of focusing loyalty among fighting men.

No only are regiments threatened, but so are ceremonies such as piping the haggis by the Scots Guards and the carrying of shepherd's crook by the Colonel of the Gordon Highlanders.

All sides agree on the need for defence cuts following the collapse of the Warsaw Pact. The government says NATO will face one million fewer East Bloc troops and 30,000 fewer tanks by the mid-1990s.

Britain's navy will be reduced from 63,000 to 55,000 personnel and the air force will be trimmed from 89,000 to 75,000.

The Defence Ministry wants an army pruned from 55 to 36 infantry battalions but senior military men believe 41 are needed if the army is to meet its commitments.

They say a lesson of the Gulf war, to which Britain sent more than 40,000 men, is that the armed forces must be in a position to respond to the unexpected.

General Sir Martin Farndale, chairman of the Royal United Services Institute, a military think tank, strongly condemned the government's plans to cut the army.

"To hurl the whole army into turmoil and to slash its capability by so much at such a time is dangerous and irresponsible," he said in a letter to the Daily Telegraph.

Mr. King says the cuts are "careful and prudent." The reduced Soviet threat means Britain can dispense with 30,000 of its 55,000 soldiers now based on the Rhine in Germany.

There will also be no need for 3,000 men in Berlin and 2,000 in Hong Kong, which goes back to China in 1997. Including men in training for these roles, that adds up to the 40,000 to be cut.

At the victory parade for Britain's Gulf war forces last month, heir to the throne Prince Charles said: "I hope we never underestimate the intangible value of the regimental system."

But it is argued that concentrating on regiments misses the point — the overall size of the army and the job it has to do.

"Defence is far too important to be treated as part of the heritage industry," said Yale University's professor of history, Sir Michael Howard, in an article in The Times.

Sandinistas admit errors but vow to stay Socialist

MANAGUA (AP) — The Sandinista Party should "forego authoritarianism" but not abandon socialism, former President Daniel Ortega said as the group of former revolutionaries met to reassess its direction.

Mr. Ortega spoke Friday night at the opening of the Sandinista National Liberation Front's first national congress, in which the leftist party is deciding whether to become more centrist after being voted out of office last year.

About 1,000 party delegates are attending the two-day congress to elect new party officials, set policy for coming years and approve or modify current procedural rules.

Mr. Ortega, reading from a 42-page report prepared by the National Executive Committee, said the challenge during the coming years is for the Sandinistas "to continue along the road to socialism."

The Sandinistas "opened the way towards socialism to save the values of humankind and to guarantee peace with justice and respect for human rights, freedom and democracy," he said.

The congress, the first-ever held on a national scale by the Sandinistas, was also directed at self-criticism.

"Our election defeat has brought to light, by means of a



Daniel Ortega

wide ranging process of criticism, the faults and mistakes that weakened our image and our political task," said the Sandinista leader, who was beaten in presidential elections in February 1990 by Violeta Chamorro, representing a fractious 14-party coalition. The Sandinista National Liberation Front is the country's biggest opposition party.

Mr. Ortega, referring to the lavish lifestyle top Sandinista officials enjoyed during their years in power, said: "Some comrades indulged in lifestyles that contrasted with the difficult conditions of the majority of our people faced."

Mr. Ortega said that if talks with Chinese officials in Washington next month failed to produce commitments to open up China's markets to American goods, the administration would invoke a trade law provision that could lead to retaliation.

The letter also promised further action to prevent illegal shipment of Chinese textiles to the United States through third countries, and measures to block goods made in prison.

It also said the United States had raised its concerns about Chinese human rights abuses at last week's group of seven summit in London and was making clear to China U.S. concerns about destabilising missile transfers.

More than 100 countries enjoy MFN status, under which they receive the lowest tariffs offered by the United States. China was first granted it in 1980 and it has been renewed each year since.

The administration also asserts

38 killed in India's Punjab state

NEW DELHI (AP) — At least 38 people were killed in renewed fighting in strife-torn Punjab province, Press Trust of India (PTI) said.

Those killed include 16 Sikh militants, most of them shot to death by police. The rest were civilians.

Among the dead militants was Mehtab Singh, a leader of the outlawed Bhindranwale Tiger

Force, one of the half-dozen militant groups fighting for Punjab's independence from India.

Two other slain militants were identified as area commanders of the Khalistan Commando Force, another top guerrilla organisation.

Khalistan, or land of the pure, is the name Sikh militants would give to an independent Punjab. Singh's bullet-ridden body was found in the district of Amritsar,

the Sikh holy city and the centre of the Sikh separatist campaign 400 kilometres northwest of New Delhi. He was apparently killed by a rival militant group, Press Trust of India quoted police as saying.

Singh, who had a reward of \$19,230 on his head, was wanted in about 200 cases of murder, extortions and ambushes on police, PTI said.

51 killed, 4 million affected by floods in Bangladesh

DHAKA (AP) — Overflowing rivers have flooded most of northern Bangladesh, killing 51 people and leaving millions of people homeless or stranded, officials said Sunday.

"It is difficult to give an exact picture of the death and destruction. The flood water is inundating fresh areas every minute," a relief ministry official said.

The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said 15 of Bangladesh's 64 districts have been ravaged by the floods and the heavy rain this week.

Tens of thousands of mud-and-straw houses have been washed away and many people were living on roofs of brick houses. Thousands of acres of crops also have been flooded, he said.

Many homeless people have taken shelter on makeshift bamboo platforms on trees, flood protection embankments and raised railway tracks, the official said.

"There may be up to 4 million people affected by the floods," including those who have been left homeless or stranded and whose fields and businesses have been destroyed, he said.

At least 10,000 people have become homeless since Saturday in the northern district of Sirajganj alone. United News of Bangladesh news agency said. The area is 105 kilometres from the capital of Dhaka.

Police said 15 people drowned in the Ganges River in Sirajganj while two others were washed away in the northern Sherpur district.

G-7 summit results will have little effect in Soviet Union

MOSCOW (AP) — Mikhail Gorbachev's mixed success at the London economic summit will do little for the Soviet economy without greater political changes at home, politicians and economists have said.

"His game is political and this (summit) was economic, and the two are not connected," said Tatyana Koryagina, a Soviet government economist.

The reaction showed the hurdles Mr. Gorbachev still faces after meeting with leaders of the Group of Seven industrialised countries in London this week. The president affirmed his place as a statesman and won G-7 promises of technical assistance and advice, but got no credits or investment.

Mr. Gorbachev went to outline a reform plan and ask for Western help to modernise key Soviet industries and make the ruble a

convertible currency.

Aid was intended to smooth transition to a market economy for Soviet citizens who are increasingly finding it impossible to make ends meet.

Price increases that took effect in April pushed retail prices 90 per cent higher than they were last year. The government ordered wage increases to compensate, but they have lagged behind price rises.

The Soviet equivalent of gross national product dropped 10 per cent in the first half of 1991 from the same period last year. Soviet national income fell 12 per cent in the first six months of the year and industrial production dropped 6.2 per cent, the government announced while Mr. Gorbachev was in London.

Mr. Gorbachev, after returning Friday from London, called his trip the beginning of a long pro-

cess of Soviet integration into the world economy.

"I think our people will receive this with satisfaction," Mr. Gorbachev said. "There are very complicated and responsible tasks in front of us all."

But economist Leonid Abalkin said in an interview published Saturday in the newspaper arguments and facts that even with Western aid, "the situation will worsen ... during the next year or year and a half."

"We will face substantial changes in the situation in five years if we take enormous efforts," Mr. Abalkin said.

Mr. Gorbachev reached final agreement in London with U.S. President George Bush on a long-awaited nuclear weapons reduction treaty. That allowed the leaders to set July 30-31 as the date for a superpower summit in Moscow.

Army pullout order hits hard at some with roots in Slovenia

LJUBLJANA, Yugoslavia (AP) — For some Yugoslav army soldiers, pulling out of Slovenia will mean withdrawing from hostile territory where the locals regard them as an occupying force. For others, it's leaving home.

The decision Thursday by Yugoslavia's collective presidency to withdraw the federal army from the breakaway republic within three months was welcomed by many recruits in the army's quarters in Slovenia.

It was condemned, however, by professional soldiers, some of whom have Yugoslav republics but in decades-old roots in the area, who thought they could "outlive their lives here."

Many of the approximately 10,000 men who will withdraw are career officers or non-commissioned officers. About 70 per cent have families — many of them well established in and around Ljubljana. The presidential decree was thus causing its share of grumbling.

"It is very sad," commented Sgt. Hazim Alic, a 52-year-old Bosnian. "It's clear that the people who made this decision didn't think about the grief they would be causing some families."

Most of the conscripts are also from other Yugoslav republics, but they all planned to go home anyway after their 12 months' service. Several said they preferred to finish their service in areas

more calm than Slovenia, where a week of fighting with republican forces earlier in the month left more than 60 people dead — most of them Yugoslav troops.

"This decision is good," said Martin Puharic, 20, a military policeman from Croatia. "The Slovenes will kill us one by one if we stay."

Alexander Tutic, a 20-year-old Serbian, also approved of the pullout order.

"I think that the Yugoslav army has saved its dignity with this decision," he said, wiping sweat from his brow as he took a break from an impromptu soccer game in the central yard of the barracks.

There was little sign of the tensions of recent weeks, and no indication that the army, which engaged Slovene forces in a failed attempt to force the republic to back away from its June 25 declaration of independence, now had anything but peace on its mind.

Some soldiers lounged under verdant chestnut trees lining the paved soccer field, preferring to ignore, rather than salute, the occasional passing officer. A generator droned, producing some of the electricity lost after the Slovenes cut power to federal army bases to protest the closure of Slovene air space.

The Slovenes said Friday, after the announcement of the with-

drawal, that they would turn the electricity back on and expected the military to reopen the air space soon.

One trooper surveyed the scene from an open window of a turn-of-the-century building. A cassette or record player nearby blared out "Should I Stay Or Should I Go" by the rock group Clash.

Col. Jovan Miskov would prefer to stay.

The barracks commander, a Macedonian, has spent 25 of his 48 years in Ljubljana, and said he, his wife and their two children consider the republic their home, even if it secedes.

"This is a very sad time for us," said Col. Miskov, his eyes misting over. "We have to leave our people, our schools, our homes. My children just started university here," said Col. Miskov. "We don't know now whether they will stay or come with us to my new posting."

Miskov's deputy, Lt.-Col. Mihailo Terzic, has spent 27 years in Slovenia, where he owns a house and a summer home.

The barrel-chested 47-year-old Montenegrin said his Slovene wife and their daughter would stay in Ljubljana, "and I will try to get a post nearby — maybe in Croatia — and commute on weekends and holidays."

"Orders are orders, you know," he said with a pained smile.

COLUMN

Second operation needed to retrieve scissors

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — An Egyptian was operated on twice in two weeks — first to repair injuries from a land mine explosion and second to remove a pair of scissors the surgeon left behind in his abdomen, a Kuwaiti newspaper reported Saturday. The Arabic daily Al Qabas said the patient, Khaled Ramadan, underwent an operation but complained of continuing pain. Doctors at Al Sabah Hospital ordered an X-ray, and Ramadan was shocked to learn about the scissors but had no choice in "giving in to the anesthesia" for the second time, the paper said. The paper did not say if Ramadan was a soldier or one of the many Egyptians employed as labourers in Kuwait.

3-year-old found locked in cage

RIALTO, California (AP) — A three-year-old girl was found locked in a wooden cage where she was kept because her family "couldn't handle" her, authorities said Friday. The girl's grandmother and the woman's boyfriend were booked for investigation of false imprisonment and child cruelty. San Bernardino county sheriff's detective Tom Taylor said. They were released on bail. The pale, apparently malnourished child was found in her pajamas Monday morning inside the 5-foot by 5-foot (1.5 metre by 1.5 metre) cage, Mr. Taylor said. A sheriff's deputy found her after receiving a call from neighbours. "She was put in there because she was an active three-year-old, you know, the way three-year-olds are," said Mr. Taylor. "But her family couldn't handle it." A wooden bed with a quarter-inch (half-centimetre) thick foam pad was inside the cage. The child apparently slept in the cage and spent several hours during the day there, he said. She shared the room with her two brothers, ages 5 and 6, who were occasionally placed in the cage as punishment, he said. A doctor later found the girl had chicken pox, a double ear infection and a stomach disorder that caused vomiting, the detective said.

Judge faces discipline for baring backside

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A judge faces disciplinary action for baring his backside to several people in his office in what he says was just a Valentine's Day joke to show off some colour — if skimpily — underwear. Hammond City Judge Peter Katic blamed political rivals for reporting the incident to the Indiana Commission of Judicial Qualifications, which announced it had started disciplinary proceedings. Judge Katic invited a woman who works for the court clerk into his office on Feb. 14, and with another employee and a city police officer watching, "turned his back to the female employee and without invitation or forewarning pulled down his pants, entirely revealing his bare buttocks," the charges said. Judge Katic said that description contained inaccuracies. He said the incident was simply a Valentine's Day prank to show off special underwear that left much of his buttocks uncovered. "While in retrospect, it may not have been in proper taste, it had no connotations other than those of a practical joke," Judge Katic said.

Amorous whales ignore spectators

ADELAIDE, Australia (AP) — A pair of amorous whales don't seem to mind a bit that hundreds of people are watching them, a marine biologist says. Biologist Ian Milne, who coordinates the Victor Harbour whale watch programme, said Friday the whales began a mating ritual Thursday. The passionate southern right whales were performing in shallow waters off Victor Harbour, about 80 kilometres south of Adelaide. Each whale measures about 15 metres long. "These two are not shy," Mr. Milne said. "They have come in quite close to shore and don't seem to mind that hundreds of people are watching." Mr. Milne described their behavior as "spectacular lovemaking display" and said observers were watching the movements of a much larger male whale, nearby. "Whales make lots of underwater sounds when they mate, and he might have been attracted by this," Mr. Milne said.